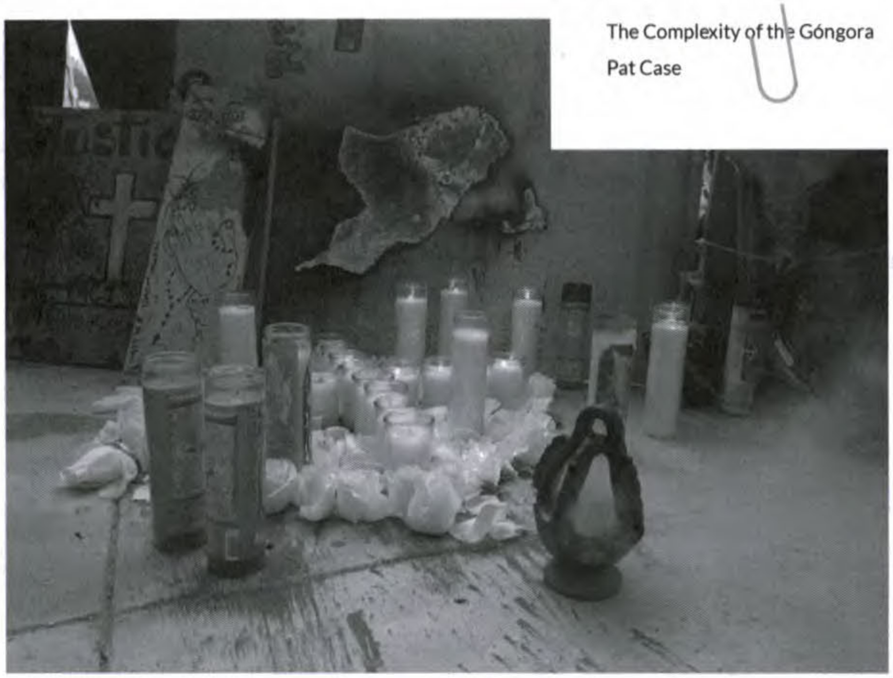

The Complexity of the Góngora Pat Case

COMMUNITY ACTION, UNCATEGORIZED

One month anniversary of Luis's killing & the Frisco500 Rise Up! by Adriana Camarena

Posted on May 7, 2016

One month ago, Luis Góngora Pat was killed by SFPD on April 7, 2016 at 10:04am. Luis was a Mayan Yucatecan man, who was living unhoused on Shotwell Street, but maintained close ties to his brother and other family living in San Francisco and Yucatan. Today, Saturday at 10am, we will meet at Shotwell and 19th for a mourning ceremony with his kin in San Francisco. The ceremony will be led by members of the Indigena Health and Wellness Collaborative, a partnership between the *Instituto Familiar de la Raza* and *Asociacion Mayab*.

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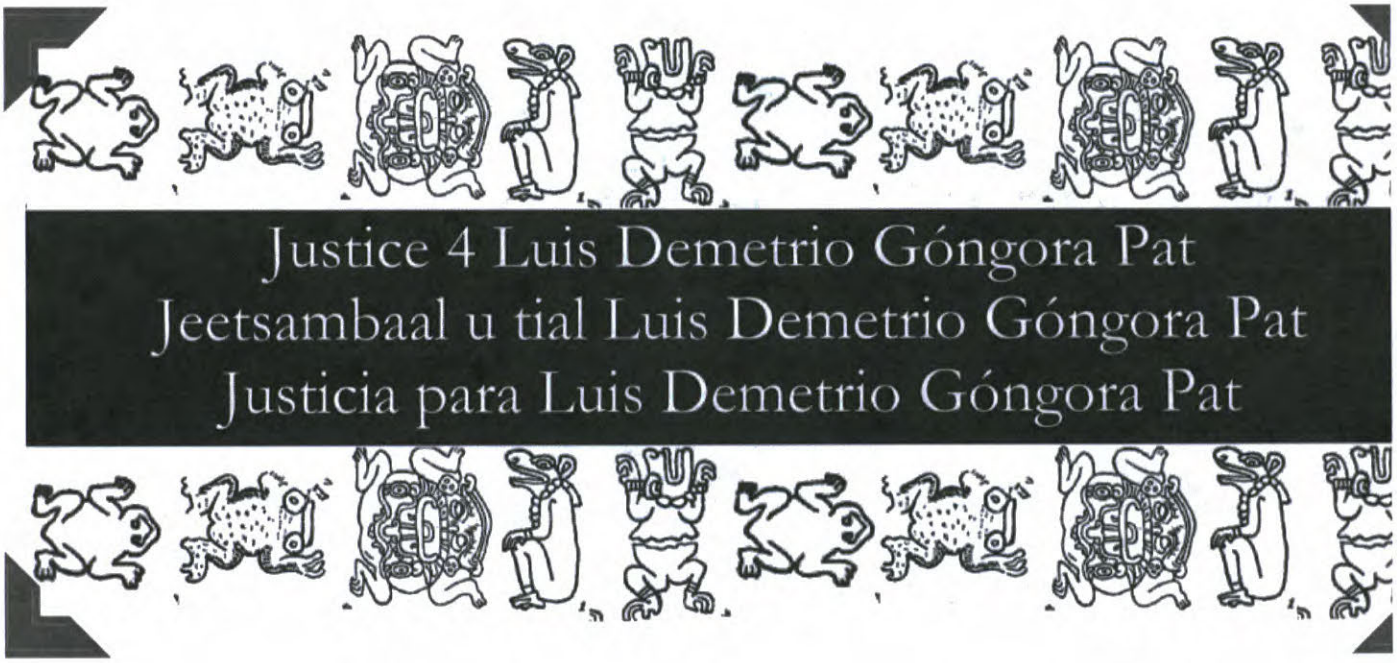
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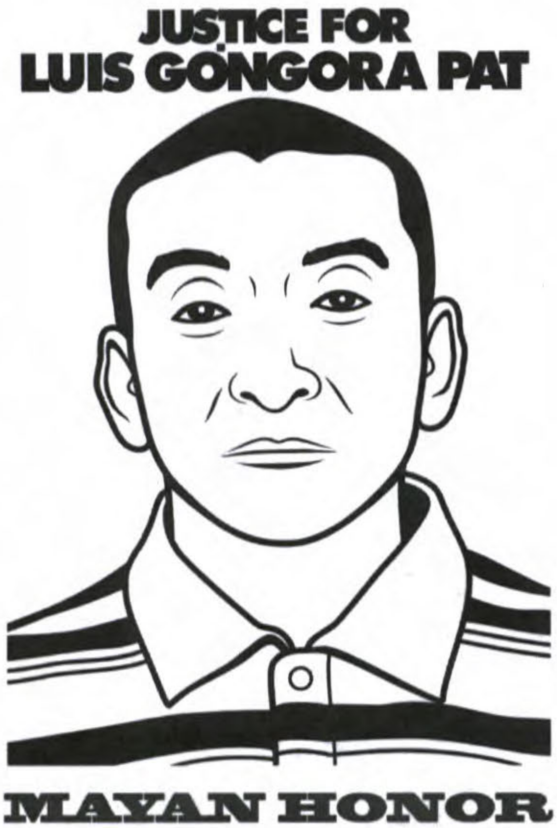
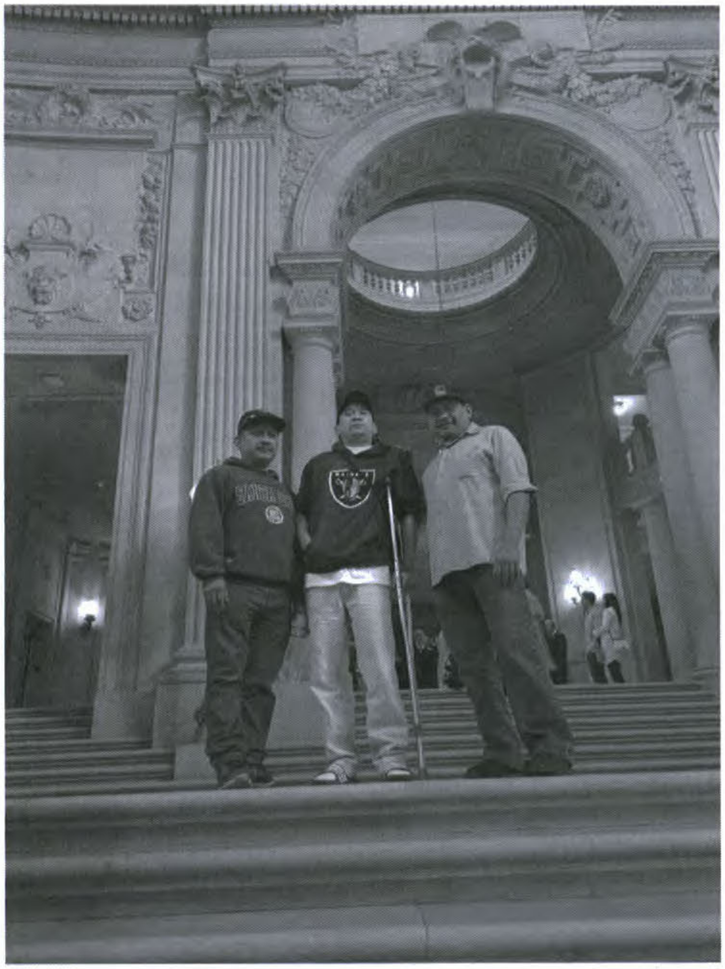


Last night, eighteen (by other estimates, twenty-five and **a new count 33**) protesters were arrested for occupying City Hall carrying the demands of the #Frisco5 for Ed Lee to be accountable and fire Chief Suhr. The Frisco5 are five native or lifelong San Franciscans, Latino and African-Americans, who went on hunger strike following the killing of Luis Góngora Pat. The hunger strike started on April 22nd in front of the Mission Police Station. It was the killing of Luis that broke the camel's back, and triggered these community members to take an active and extreme stance to force the Mayor's hand by calling for the removal of Chief Greg Suhr. A movement developed around the Frisco 5 that culminated in an action of civil disobedience by supporters last night to keep City Hall open until their demand was met. This movement is now being called the Frisco 500.

Before the hunger strike, the family of Luis Góngora Pat had already begun a harrowing journey of being pitted against systems and borders after his death. They have lost wages, sleep and all their peace of mind, as they navigated press requests, met with the Mexican Consulate to repatriate the body and pressure for a federal investigation, educated themselves about criminal versus civil procedures, informed the widow and three children of Luis in Yucatan, coordinated with Arnoldo Casillas (a civil trial attorney called-in by the Consulate to preserve evidence including an independent autopsy); organized a wake in San Francisco and a funeral in Teabo, Yucatán, met with San Francisco City supervisors John Avalos and David Campos, grappled with fear of retaliation by police against their families, suffered illness and injury that accompanied their grief, and made a humble first public appearance at the #Frisco5 hunger strike a week ago. The family in San Francisco and Teabo have been to hell and back in the last month. Today is their first moment of mourning with community at the site of Luis's killing.

Luis's family is clear that they will fight with Mayan courage for the honor of their fallen cousin and brother. For them, the disgraceful killing of their brother and cousin by SFPD requires not only accountability, but restoration for harm done to the Mayan honor of Luis with an unjust and untimely death.



According to writer and race educator Karen Fleshman, Luis's death is the **twenty-first killing by SFPD officers since Greg Suhr came into office** and **the eleventh killing by SFPD officers since 2014**. Of those eleven killings, four have become salient causes due to higher profile community organizing: **Justice for Alex Nieto**, **Justice for Amilcar Perez-Lopez**, **Justice for Mario Woods**, and now, **Justice for Luis Góngora Pat**. Three of those killings took place in the Mission District and Bernal Heights, traditional Latino working class neighborhoods of San Francisco. Two of those killings were of Mayan day laborers, one from Guatemala (Amilcar), the other from Mexico (Luis). The other two were native San Franciscans, a Latino (Alex Nieto) and a native African-American man (Mario Woods) from Bayview/Hunter's Point.

According to the SFPD Internal Affairs Division's "Summary of Officer Involved Shootings Since 2000" from May 2014, since 2000, 97 SFPD officer-involved shootings occurred, resulting in 33 deaths and 35 people being injured. The Internal Affairs Division memo reported that in every case where someone was killed in an SFPD officer-involved shooting, the officers were found to have acted within policy. On March 11, 2016, a jury handed down a verdict that also exonerated the killers of Alex Nieto from wrongdoing. Previously, in 2015, D.A. Gascón had determined that officers had acted within policy in the Alex Nieto shooting, and he would not press charges.

For weeks now, community members have been expecting D.A. George Gascón to make an announcement as to whether he will charge officers in the killing of Guatemalan Mayan Chorti indigenous day laborer, Amilcar Perez Lopez. A recent joint report by KQED-El Tecolote covered first hand the witness report that contradicts SFPD's narrative. His announcement is delayed in the context of the Frisco 5 hunger strike and rising anger from supporters at City Hall for inaction to end police impunity.

The fact that there are no consequences—ever— for officers means that the legal framework is structured to impede accountability in all cases. In other words, it is structured to sustain impunity in police killings. For this reason, the Justice 4 Alex Nieto Coalition now joined by Justice 4 Amilcar Perez Lopez and Justice 4 Luis Góngora Pat are **demanding deep structural reform** to guarantee fair and independent investigations and radically increase transparency and accountability in cases of serious bodily injury and misconduct by police.

The killings of these past few years have happened in a broader context of heightened conflict over traditional working class families being pushed out of the City by gentrification. The death of Alex Nieto was the first moment of awareness that **gentrification can kill** when police protect white fear and property over minority resident lives.

The death of Luis Góngora Pat sheds light not only on a housing crisis, but an increasing crisis of homelessness and lack of resources to address rising inequality. The month of April once again broke real estate records for median pricing on San Francisco homes. Luis Góngora Pat was in fact on the street due to landlord harassment that led him and his brother to abandon their tiny rental room.

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Police Do Some Retraining, Experts Say More Needed

By Laura Wenus (http://missionlocal.org/author/lauraw/) (http://twitter.com/laurawenus)
Posted 2 hours ago

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Among those who work within and around the San Francisco Police Department, several say Police Chief Greg Suhr – whom five hunger strikers camped out at Mission Station want to unseat – is trying to retrain officers and reduce the use of deadly force. But they agree that more needs to be done, and one of the experts involved in retraining was sharply critical of the Luis Gongora shooting, which occurred after the retraining.

Message Received

"I think that he's in a position where he has got to act and he's gotta do something more than what he's doing now. And I think he realizes that," said Public Defender Jeff Adachi. "He's got to reach the point where he's got to be able to tell people, 'Mario Woods' shooting never should have happened.' And from my talks with him, I think he believes that – I think if he was there and he got called to the scene, he'd be like, 'No! Don't do that!'"

David Elliott Lewis, who has been working full-time to make officers de-escalate situations and roll back the use of force, said he has been training police officers in crisis intervention practices for two years now. He is also the secretary of the Mental Health Board at City College of San Francisco as well as a board member of the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

Lewis noted that Suhr has issued bulletins regarding the use of deadly force directing officers not to fire on a suspect with a knife if nobody else is immediately in danger.

But in the most recent police shooting, part of what sparked the hunger strike at Mission Station calling for Suhr's resignation, Lewis' strictly-personal opinion is that Gongora's shooting was "a total disaster."

"No, that's not what we train, and as a trainer I'm disheartened and depressed and dispirited that this happened. I'd like to believe that this is a rare exception," Lewis said. "Every day there's about 30 CIT calls that people rapidly talk down. Nobody gets hurt...if anything they get transported to the hospital if they meet 5150 [temporary psychiatric hold] criteria."

Moreover, he said, in the twice-annual firearm re-certification mandatory for every police officer, Suhr has made changes. Officers aren't just tested for whether they can hit a target 80 percent of the time, but get reminders about situations where de-escalation might be more appropriate than force. Their targets, too, have changed.

"[Before], when the target turned, every time, they had to fire. Now, when the target turns, they have to make a decision whether the person in the image is a threat or not. They've never had to do that before," Lewis said. "Chief Suhr came up with that under a lot of pressure."

According to Lewis, the chief has also eliminated so-called sympathetic fire, when officers open fire after their partners begin shooting. Officers are now barred from firing at a suspect unless they themselves are in danger.

Controversy over the conduct of police officers and their chief has inspired a two-week hunger strike at the Mission District police station.

The demand to fire Suhr has developed out of protests and activism sparked by four shootings of men of color at the hands of San Francisco police officers in the past two years. Although the officers who shot Alex Nieto did face a civil trial and were exonerated, the District Attorney has not brought criminal charges in any of the shooting cases.

Two separate investigations into officers' misconduct have also revealed exchanges of text messages between officers that use racist and homophobic language.

Arrest statistics (http://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/S-F-grapples-with-racial-disparity-in-arrests-6347686.php) paint a grim picture of the disproportionate enforcement of the law against people of color. Last year, a study showed that black people were more than seven times as likely to be arrested than white people in 2013, a disparity that had only widened in San Francisco as it narrowed elsewhere.

For years, activists have organized marches, written letters, commented at public meetings, held vigils, and organized even more marches. They wanted Suhr fired, the officers involved in the shootings charged with murder, and an independent investigation of the police department's practices.

They continue to feel largely ignored and disenfranchised by officials saying that at town hall meetings, a grave-faced Suhr listens, but responds with boilerplate language.

But Lewis noted that some police practices have already started to change.

"The new rule is you can only fire twice and then you have to re-assess. I noticed that Luis Gongora [was] only hit seven times. In the old system, he would have been hit 20 times or more. But the fact that seven rounds were fired instead of 20 suggests that at least that rule has had some effect."

But Gongora was still killed.

Imperfect System

Lewis said the crisis-intervention training program trained some 100 officers, the entire body of specialist and tactical officers, in April. So far, more than 400 officers have received the training.

Crisis Intervention Training is a 40-hour intensive program involving role play scenarios and instruction from experts in urgent care, the Public Defender's Office, behavioral health court, and verbal de-escalation.

"I'm a consumer with my own experiences with mental health challenges about how to relate to people like me," Lewis said. More than a decade ago, the death of his parents, a divorce and sudden bankruptcy sent him into severe depression and triggered anxiety disorders, which eventually landed him on the streets.

The training has boiled down to three main tenets: Officers who encounter someone in crisis should create distance, time, and rapport. Approach slowly. Keep enough of a distance from a knife-wielding person that they are less likely to become a threat. Talk with the person, but wait for responses and use silence effectively.

Had officers followed their crisis intervention training in their encounter with Gongora, Lewis said, the officers would have contained a perimeter around him, approached slowly, and started a conversation by speaking with the suspect and waiting for a response – not by firing bean bag rounds.

Still, for every Gongora, there are dozens of other individuals who encounter officers whose names are never made public because nothing happens.

"Every day there's about 30 CIT calls that people rapidly talk down," Lewis said. "Success stories where police do successfully de-escalate don't seem to be as newsworthy."

Challenges Ahead

Discussing an association test that searches for implicit biases, Adachi is the first to admit that most will find they have them.

"I took the test myself and saw that, yes, I have biases," he said at a forum on police accountability on Tuesday night – one which Suhr had been expected to participate in, but was absent from due to "security concerns."

In the police department, Adachi said, the problem is culture. He refuses to believe the racist text message scandals were isolated incidents.

"We are talking about a culture in the police department that allows racism to happen," Adachi said, comparing it to the culture of early Nazi Germany. "A culture where officers feel free to not only engage in this kind of dialogue, but to act on it."

An experiment with judges given identical cases with black or white mug shots attached, Adachi said, found that judges overwhelmingly gave tougher sentences and set higher bail for black mugshots – but that they would self-correct for that bias once it was pointed out and they were monitored. Still, the effect is short-lived.

"What the research shows is that that works, but you have to continually reinforce it. In other words it doesn't last," he said. "You constantly have to be reminded and that's why the training and the exercises"

Adachi connected racism and implicit biases to a lack of empathy with unfamiliar groups of people, and suggested requiring police officers form relationships with the people in the communities that they police.

Crisis Intervention Training and the department's use-of-force policies also have room to improve.

"We need to go beyond just training and fully operationalize," he said. "We need a new use of force policy that's being crafted now."

The department's current use-of-force policy, Adachi said, allows officers to apply force when they deem it reasonable. Critics want that language changed to using the *minimal* amount of force necessary – a change supported, but not finally adopted, at a Police Commission meeting on Wednesday night.

"Now the question is, 'Can you use forc?' I can do it, so long as I establish that I am afraid," Adachi said – whether that be 10 or 50 gunshots.

The shooting of Luis Gongora, Adachi said, was also within guidelines.

"Can they do that under the law? Yes. Should they do that? No! You don't treat a human being like that," he said.

At the scene of the hunger strike, at least one officer, Mission Station Captain Daniel Perea, seemed convinced of Suhr's good intentions.

"I think the chief's a good man, and he is actively involved in leading this police department in a direction...where we we have policies and procedures that the community is asking for," Perea said. "He's responsive to the community. The thing that I've heard the chief say over and over again is, 'We're here to help.' And I think that he's doing things for that reason. He's a good man and he's trying to do the right thing."

But outside, the effort to remove the chief continues, with hunger strikers entering their third week without solid food.

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Names of Officers Involved in Death of Homeless Man Released (via KQED)

By Laura Wenus (http://missionlocal.org/author/lauraw/) (http://twitter.com/laurawenus)
Posted April 15, 2016 10:44 pm

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The San Francisco Police Department has released the names of the two officers involved in the shooting death of Luis Gongora on April 7 to KQED (http://ww2.kqed.org/news/2016/04/15/sfpd-names-sergeant-officer-who-fatally-shot-homeless-man).

Both officers, Sgt. Nate Steger and officer Michael Mellone, have more than a decade of law enforcement experience.

The San Francisco Police Department has issued statements (http://missionlocal.org/2016/04/chief-fields-angry-question-on-police-shooting-of-homeless-man/) indicating that Gongora brandished a knife at the officers, and that some witnesses confirmed this. But eight witnesses (http://missionlocal.org/2016/04/eighth-witness-says-homeless-man-did-not-lunge-at-officers-in-police-shooting/) have told various media organizations that Gongora never threatened the officers with his knife.

Steger has been an SFPD officer for 17 years, KQED reported, having started his career in Washington, D.C. He later became an internal affairs investigator, a state-certified police instructor, as well as a member of the law enforcement support and peer leadership organization Blue Courage.

Mellone transferred to San Francisco four years ago, and was the first to administer the anti-overdose treatment Naloxone to a man in the Mission in 2015.

In 2011, a detective by the same name was named in an excessive force lawsuit brought against Antioch county, KQED reports, though it's unclear whether Mellone is indeed the former Antioch detective. The suit alleged that officers violently tackled, handcuffed and used a Taser on two individuals in their home in Pittsburg.

Read the full story here (http://ww2.kqed.org/news/2016/04/15/sfpd-names-sergeant-officer-who-fatally-shot-homeless-man).

(http://i2.wp.com/missionlocal.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/IMG_7456-e1440812195626.jpg)

Office Mike Mellone demonstrating a nasal naloxone spray to eager cameramen in August 2015. Photo by Joe Rivano Barros.

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Harassment and Backdoor Maneuvers Alleged in Aftermath of Police Shooting

By Joe Rivano Barros (http://missionlocal.org/author/joer/) (http://twitter.com/jrivanob)
Posted April 11, 2016 5:00 pm

Tweet Share

Two homeless witnesses to the fatal police shooting of Luis Gongora on Shotwell Street last Thursday (http://missionlocal.org/2016/04/sfpd-officers-shoot-man-armed-with-knife-in-sf-mission/) say the police have harassed them multiple times since the shooting, most recently threatening them with arrest late Saturday night if they did not move their tents from the block.

The pair temporarily moved across the street before returning to the block, where they were still staying on Monday. Both accepted placement to the Navigation Center over the weekend along with others from the encampment (http://missionlocal.org/2016/04/homeless-residents-near-police-shooting-site-moved-to-navigation-center/) but said they were unsure of going.

Additionally on Monday, an employee of the Department of Public Health — who wished to remain anonymous — said that the city prioritized residents of the Shotwell Street encampment for intake to the Navigation Center ahead of others who were in "higher need" of shelter.

Late-Night Raid

In a scene of the late-night raid caught on video by a witness, residents of the encampment where Gongora lived had their tents dismantled by police near midnight on Saturday.

Police at the scene said they were searching for a stolen motorcycle and did tow one away a from one of the dismantled tents.

Late-Night Police Search on Shotwell Street, Part Two
from Mission Local PRO
02:29

Late-Night Police Search on Shotwell Street, Part Two (https://vimeo.com/162453052) from Mission Local (https://vimeo.com/missionlocal) on Vimeo (https://vimeo.com). Video courtesy of Adriana Camarena.

Stephanie Grant — one of the eyewitnesses to the shooting who has contradicted the police account — said Saturday night that officers have harassed her and her boyfriend multiple times since the shooting.

"They've been harassing him ever since he's gone on the TV," Grant said of her boyfriend John Visor, another eyewitness who has been widely interviewed for his account of the shooting. Visor said Gongora posed no threat to officers and was trying to run away when he was shot at seven times.

Gongora was a homeless resident of Shotwell Street between 18th and 19th streets who police say lunged at them with a 13-inch knife, prompting two officers to open fire. Officers first yelled at Gongora to drop the knife and then fired four beanbag rounds at him, and video of the incident shows that officers shot at Gongora within 30 seconds of exiting their vehicles.

Six witnesses have contradicted the police account and say Gongora did not lunge at officers with a knife. Three homeless residents of his encampment said the monolingual Spanish speaker did not understand the police commands and attempted to run away after being hit with the bean bag rounds.

Three other witnesses also said they did not see Gongora lunge at officers. One — a passer-by who spoke with Mission Local last week (http://missionlocal.org/2016/04/video-more-witness-testimony-emerge-around-sfpd-shooting-of-homeless-man/) — said that Gongora had what looked like trash in his hand and that she never saw Gongora stand up.

Two neighbors who saw the shooting from their windows across the street said that Gongora stood up when shot by beanbag rounds (http://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/apr/09/san-francisco-homeless-man-police-killing-luis-gongora) but did not threaten officers.

The police department held a press conference on Friday (http://www.sfexaminer.com/sfpd-witnesses-say-man-killed-by-police-was-coming-at-officers-knife/) and said at least three of 10 witnesses interviewed say Gongora threatened officers with a knife.

Police did not say what the other witness accounts stated, but are sure to speak more at an upcoming town hall – a meeting the department holds within seven days of any police shooting. Police have not yet decided on the date of that meeting.

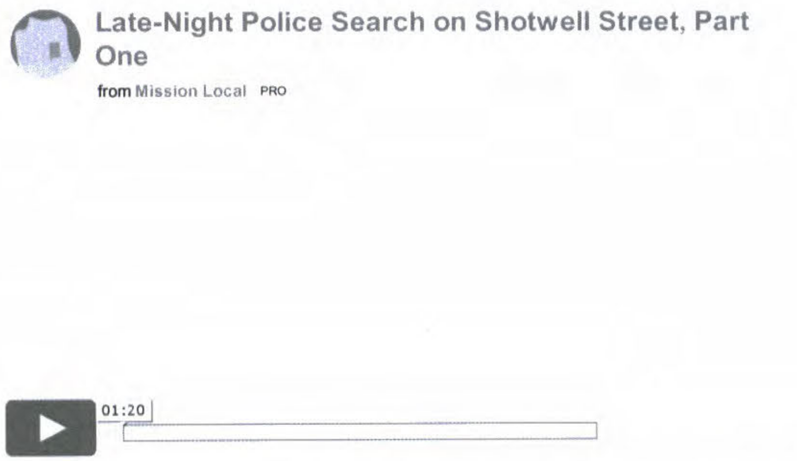
Two Late-Night Visits in a Row

Homeless residents of the block have been fearful of police retaliation. Department of Public Works trucks picked up trash from the block on Friday near midnight just after city staff had moved nine people from the encampment to the Navigation Center – a homeless shelter that can accommodate entire encampments at once.

But residents of the encampment were suspicious of the timing (http://missionlocal.org/2016/04/homeless-residents-near-police-shooting-site-moved-to-navigation-center/), saying the city was scattering witnesses to the shooting.

On Saturday, Grant and Visor said police threatened them with arrest after banging on their tent with batons, prompting them to move their tent a block down from their spot near where Gongora was killed.

"They told us that if we didn't move we were going to go to jail," Grant said.



Late-Night Police Search on Shotwell Street, Part One (https://vimeo.com/162452874) from Mission Local (https://vimeo.com/missionlocal) on Vimeo (https://vimeo.com). Video courtesy of Adriana Camarena.

Markael Raybond – another homeless resident of the encampment – said the police also told him to move from the area and threatened arrest if his tent was not gone from the block by daybreak.

Raybond also said the police kicked and shattered candles near his tent meant to memorialize Gongora, a good friend of Raybond.

"They kicked the tent and broke the candles, saying 'Get out, get out, SFPD. If you don't get out we'll take you to jail,'" he said.

Others had no warning. Adriana Camarena – a local activist who filmed the encounter – said some residents left the encampment when police arrived and that the police proceeded to dismantle the empty tents.

Late-Night Police Search on Shotwell Street, Part Three

from Mission Local PRO

05:10

[Late-Night Police Search on Shotwell Street, Part Three (https://vimeo.com/162453295)](https://vimeo.com/162453295) from [Mission Local (https://vimeo.com/missionlocal)](https://vimeo.com/missionlocal) on [Vimeo (https://vimeo.com)](https://vimeo.com). Video courtesy of Adriana Camarena.

"It was those tents, I believe it was three tents, that had been bashed," Camarena said. Camarena saw at least three officers poking through tents alongside a city worker in a neon yellow vest, and said police exposed residents' belongings to the rain. "There were people left without shelter that night and it was still raining."

The police department did not immediately return requests for comment on the search.

Shelter for Residents a Political Maneuver

On Monday, a Department of Public Health employee who wished to remain anonymous said the city artificially prioritized residents from the Shotwell Street encampment for city shelter. The change granted the Shotwell Street homeless residents access to the Navigation Center meant for another Mission District encampment that was next for intake.

The employee said the homeless outreach team — which helps move people into the Navigation Center — was hoping to move an encampment on Cesar Chavez Street to the center but that those spots were instead taken by those living on Shotwell Street.

"Some of us are very upset that this sneaky, silent backdoor business is happening and putting other folks out of service," the employee said, adding that "those [spots] were supposed to go to people who were in higher need."

That contradicts statements made on Friday when Rachel Gordon, a spokesperson for the Department of Public Works, said the outreach team had been working specifically with the Shotwell Street encampment to get them to the Navigation Center since before the shooting.

According to the anonymous Department of Public Health employee, the outreach team had indeed been at the Shotwell Street encampment the day of the shooting, but not to move residents to the Navigation Center. They were called there because Grant — the eyewitness to the shooting — is seven months pregnant.

It was then that members of the outreach team noticed Gongora had a knife and called the police.

"The first HOT team person on the scene noticed he had a knife, didn't feel comfortable about the situation, called other members of the HOT team, and they decided to call the police," said the employee.

Members of the outreach team have become hesitant to call the police in the aftermath of the shooting, the employee added.

"I don't think we'll be doing that anymore," the employee said. Members of the team, the employee said, "will definitely be wary of calling the police in the future, especially on homeless folks."

Rachel Kagan, a spokesperson for the Department of Public Health, said she was not aware of the Cesar Chavez encampment being scheduled before the Shotwell Street one but said homeless residents of Shotwell Street were in need of shelter.

"Everyone in that area had just had a horrible experience, so we needed to move quickly to improve the situation for everyone involved," she said.

Crackdown on Homeless Encampments

The late-night visits Friday and Saturday nights followed [comments made by Mayor Ed Lee (http://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/matier-ross/article/SF-mayor-plans-crackdown-on-homeless-camps-7238291.php)](http://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/matier-ross/article/SF-mayor-plans-crackdown-on-homeless-camps-7238291.php)to the Chronicle on Friday that he would crack down on homeless encampments city-wide for public safety, starting with the Shotwell Street camp.

"I will be ordering the Shotwell camp to be taken down and for it not to come back," he told the Chronicle.

That move was backed by Supervisor Scott Wiener, who [wrote in a Facebook post (https://www.facebook.com/ScottWiener2/posts/10153366716131968)](https://www.facebook.com/ScottWiener2/posts/10153366716131968) that the shooting "raises the issue of weapons in these encampments" and said "it's time for firm action and a clear statement that tents are not part of our housing policy."

Not all were so supportive. Supervisor David Campos said the mayor's comments were a "knee-jerk" reaction that amounted amounted to "playing whack-a-mole" with encampments. He said Lee should instead focus on reform of the police department's use-of-force policy.

"It doesn't make any sense that the response of a mayor to the killing of a homeless person by police is to crack down even more on homeless people," he said. "If anything it will probably make things worse."

Back on Shotwell Street, residents are exhausted. Grant said the late-night visits from city staff and multiple interview requests from reporters since the shooting have worn her out.

"I am done with this whole situation," she said. "I can't take it anymore."

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Wally O'mara April 11, 2016 at 5:18 pm

The way this is being handled, I'm inclined to believe the the statement by the Department of Health Worker that as a political coverup this camp was jumped the line.

But ifso, I think there has to be documents, and its the job of journalist to make public record requests, asking for immediate same day release of the records.

Chad Russo April 11, 2016 at 6:50 pm

After the two witnesses went public, I worried this would happen. It's a cliché, but cops is cops. Great reportage, Mr. Barros.

Susan April 12, 2016 at 12:23 pm

I just don't know what to say. The political coverup and mistrust is great. Removing the encampments is not a solution to both growing problems. At risk, the elderly and children are being pushed further into the ugly underbelly of homeless that are druggies and deviants. I pray the the city and even myself, come up with with a humane solution. And the 'he had a knife and lunged' dialogue has got to stop as well. Please pray.

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Homeless Residents Near Police Shooting Site Moved to Navigation Center

By Joe Rivano Barros (http://missionlocal.org/author/joer/) (http://twitter.com/jrivanob)
Posted April 9, 2016 12:35 am

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On Friday night in the pouring rain, Department of Public Works trucks cleared out trash near the homeless encampment where 45-year-old Luis Gongora was shot and killed by San Francisco police on Thursday (http://missionlocal.org/2016/04/sfpd-officers-shoot-man-armed-with-knife-in-sf-mission/), raising some fear among residents that the sweep was an attempt to scatter potential witnesses to the shooting.

A Public Works spokesperson, however, said the trucks were not there to dismantle the encampment and that staff were taking nine people from the encampment to the Navigation Center.

"Of course it's happening right now," said a resident of the block who wished to remain anonymous. He said the city was sweeping the encampment in order to scatter potential witnesses to the shooting. "They want to get us out of here."

"It's pretty funny because I've been saying I want to pack up for a year," said Rosalyn Barnett, another resident of the encampment who said she was offered a spot at the Navigation Center but would not move in until a week from now. "I was hoping I'd get in some way, but not this way. Not with someone dying for us."

But according to Public Works, the timing of the cleanup effort was motivated by space opening up and inclement weather.

"We were able to get spaces at the Navigation Center for nine people at the encampment," said Rachel Gordon, a spokesperson for Public Works. Asked about the timing of the visit, Gordon said the Homeless Outreach Team had been at the encampment working to sign people up for the center on Thursday morning, before the shooting. She also said the weekend rain prodded Public Works to bring people indoors sooner rather than later.

Police said staff from the outreach team called 911 to report a man with a knife. Officers responded and attempted to subdue Gongora with bean-bag rounds while yelling at him to "Drop it." Officers said Gongora then lunged at them with a 13-inch knife and that they fired in self-defense, but witnesses said he wasn't brandishing a knife and didn't understand officers' commands (http://missionlocal.org/2016/04/video-more-witness-testimony-emerge-around-sfpd-shooting-of-homeless-man/) when shot by police.

John Visor – one of the eyewitnesses to the shooting who contradicted the police account – said Public Works staff picking up trash on Friday night did not tell him to move from his tent and that he and his partner Stephanie Grant, another eyewitness, would be going to the Navigation Center the next day.

"They just need to throw out the trash," he said of the Public Works trucks, which left the encampment just before midnight.

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August 27, 2015
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4 Comments

Susan
April 9, 2016 at 7:46 am

It coukd also have been motivated by President Obama's visit. Optics not the best for Ed Lee and the City.

michael johnson
April 10, 2016 at 10:06 am

"homeless residents"
homeless: noun – having no place to live
resident: noun – living in a particular place usually for a long period of time
merriam webster

Jay Martin
April 10, 2016 at 4:08 pm

Today, two brothers of Luis Gongora visited place he was shot. A neighbor talked with the brothers at about 1 p.m. on Saturday. The brothers learned of the shooting through news stories, they told the neighbor. A small memorial of flowers and signs marks the place.

People and tents were gone. The wide sidewalk is still painted with flowers from the years people lived there. Another neighbor called it a stable community. She said that people deserve better than a tent on the sidewalk, but at least it helps to have stability.

Are the people gone because the city offered them someplace better? Or did the city clear the tents to lose witnesses, hide people from the press, stop community organizing, and punish people for being poor?

Stella Rose
April 12, 2016 at 9:10 am

Saturday night the police came to the camp (not public works) and tore up the tents – ripping them, stepping in them. Tearing down people's belongings even if they were not present to revive them. Now the whole encampment on shotwell is gone.

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KQED News

NEWS FIX (HTTP://WW2.KQED.ORG/NEWS/PROGRAMS/NEWS-FIX)

SFPD Names Sergeant, Officer Who Fatally Shot Homeless Man

The scene of a fatal officer-involved shooting by San Francisco police on April 7, 2016, near 19th and Shotwell streets. (*Alex Emslie/KQED*)

By **Alex Emslie (http://ww2.kqed.org/news/author/aemslie)** **(http://twitter.com/SFNewsReporter)**
APRIL 15, 2016

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The San Francisco Police Department released the names on Friday of a sergeant and an officer who fired a total of seven .40-caliber rounds at a homeless man in the Mission District last week, mortally wounding him.

Some witnesses (http://ww2.kqed.org/news/2016/04/08/sfpd-investigators-selectively-release-witness-statements-on-police-shooting) and the officers have said Luis Gongora charged police with a kitchen knife after they contacted him the morning of April 7, according to the Police Department (http://ww2.kqed.org/news/2016/04/14/time-and-distance-central-to-controversy-over-san-franciscos-latest-fatal-police-shooting). Other witnesses (http://ww2.kqed.org/news/2016/04/07/officer-involved-shooting-in-s-f-s-mission-district) told reporters (http://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/apr/12/witness-san-francisco-police-shooting-homeless-man-luis-gongora) that Gongora was not holding a knife or did not run toward the officers.

A department spokesman identified Sgt. Nate Steger and officer Michael Mellone as the two officers who fired during the incident.

Sgt. Nate Steger is a 17-year-veteran of the department, according to a statement from Police Chief Greg Suhr on the seniority of officers involved in the shooting from earlier this week, and has spent much of his career assigned to the Mission District.

Officer Michael Mellone has a combined 13 years of experience in law enforcement, transferring to SFPD four years ago, according to Suhr's statements Wednesday.

He was the first SFPD officer (http://sanfranciscopolice.org/article/sfpd-officer-saves-mans-life-naloxone-kit) to administer a nasal dose of Naloxone to a man overdosing on opioids last year near 16th and Capp streets, in the Mission District.

TWITTER SFPD

San Francisco Police
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#SFPD Officer Michael Mellone Saves Man's Life with Naloxone Kit. Details: sf-police.org/index.aspx?pag…

2:45 PM - 28 Aug 2015

13 18

Mellone may have transferred from Antioch Police Department; a Detective Michael Mellone is named in a 2011 federal lawsuit against Antioch and six of its police officers alleging excessive force, unlawful search and seizure, assault, battery, false arrest and other civil claims.

The lawsuit claims Mellone and other Antioch detectives served a search warrant in the early morning Jan. 13, 2011 at the Pittsburg home of Edrick Harvey, having trailed her son Alvin Harvey there the night before.

The suit alleged the officers "tackled, handcuffed, and electrocuted Plaintiff Edrick Harvey with an electronic control device, presumably a Taser. The defendant officers then manhandled [Angel Smith], wrenched her arm, choked her, slammed her to the ground, handcuffed her, and electrocuted her with an electronic control device, presumably a Taser."

Antioch settled the case in 2014, and paid a $135,000 settlement to Smith and another of Harvey's children who was present during the search. Harvey died before the lawsuit's settlement.

The Antioch Police Department did not immediately respond to inquiries late Friday evening, nor did attorneys in the case.

Mellone had undergone CIT training, according to statements from Suhr, but it's unclear whether that was in San Francisco or before he transferred to the department. Suhr said at a Police Commission meeting Wednesday night that the CIT trained officer involved in the shooting was the one who can be seen firing a shotgun with "less lethal" beanbag rounds in surveillance video published by SFGate (http://www.sfgate.com/crime/article/Video-shows-San-Francisco-police-shooting-7237146.php) last week.

'Time and Distance' Central to Controversy Over San Francisco's Latest Fatal Police Shooting (http://ww2.kqed.org/news/2016/04/14/time-and-distance-central-to-controversy-over-san-franciscos-latest-fatal-police-shooting)

(http://ww2.kqed.org/news/2016/04/14/time-and-distance-central-to-controversy-over-san-franciscos-latest-fatal-police-shooting)

SFPD Investigators Selectively Release Witness Statements on Police Shooting (http://ww2.kqed.org/news/2016/04/08/sfpd-investigators-selectively-release-witness-statements-on-police-shooting)

(http://ww2.kqed.org/news/2016/04/08/sfpd-investigators-selectively-release-witness-statements-on-police-shooting)

Witnesses Dispute Police Account of Fatal Officer-Involved Shooting in S.F.'s Mission District (http://ww2.kqed.org/news/2016/04/07/officer-involved-shooting-in-s-f-s-mission-district)

(http://ww2.kqed.org/news/2016/04/07/officer-involved-shooting-in-s-f-s-mission-district)

There are no lawsuits naming Sgt. Nate Steger as a defendant in either federal or state jurisdictions covering San Francisco.

He's a member of Blue Courage (http://bluecourage.com/about-us/), a law enforcement leadership and peer support organization.

Steger began his law enforcement career with the Metropolitan Police Department of Washington, D.C., according to his Blue Courage profile. In San Francisco, he's served as an internal affairs investigator, patrol officer and in SFPD's plainclothes division. He's also worked in the department's training division and is a state-certified police instructor. He's also been a field training officer for the department.

Steger is mentioned in two 2007 San Francisco Chronicle articles in which reporters spent substantial time with SFPD officers. The articles describe a tense chase (http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/THE-BADGE-The-day-has-just-gone-from-zero-to-60-2560479.php) through the Mission District that ended in a search and traffic citation and the work of beat cops (http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/THE-BADGE-Valencia-Gardens-is-safer-thanks-to-2579760.php) in Valencia Gardens.

EXPLORE: LAW AND JUSTICE (HTTP://WW2.KQED.ORG/NEWS/CATEGORY/LAW-AND-JUSTICE), NEWS (HTTP://WW2.KQED.ORG/NEWS/CATEGORY/NEWS), LUIS GONGORA (HTTP://WW2.KQED.ORG/NEWS/TAG/LUIS-GONGORA), SAN FRANCISCO POLICE DEPARTMENT (HTTP://WW2.KQED.ORG/NEWS/TAG/SAN-FRANCISCO-POLICE-DEPARTMENT)

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Hundreds at Meeting Call for Suhr's Ouster After Fatal Police Shooting (http://ww2.kqed.org/news/2015/12/10/hundreds-at-meeting-call-for-suhrs-ouster-after-fatal-police-shooting)

S.F. Police Chief, Public Defender Clash Over Latest Fatal Cop Shooting (http://ww2.kqed.org/news/2015/12/02/s-f-police-chief-public-defender-clash-over-latest-fatal-cop-shooting)

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AUTHOR

ALEX EMSLIE

Alex Emslie is a news reporter focused on criminal justice policy, policing and legal issues. He left Colorado and a career as a carpenter in 2008 to study journalism at community college in San Francisco. He then graduated from San Francisco State University's journalism program with a minor in criminal justice studies. Emslie contributed to several Bay Area newspapers and online news outlets before joining KQED in 2013. He loves multimedia reporting, publishing source documents and transparency. He can be reached at aemslie@kqed.org and followed via @SFNewsReporter.

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Harassment and Backdoor Maneuvers Alleged in Aftermath of Police Shooting

By Joe Rivano Barros (http://missionlocal.org/author/joer/) (http://twitter.com/jrivanob)
Posted April 11, 2016 5:00 pm

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Two homeless witnesses to the fatal police shooting of Luis Gongora on Shotwell Street last Thursday (http://missionlocal.org/2016/04/sfpd-officers-shoot-man-armed-with-knife-in-sf-mission/) say the police have harassed them multiple times since the shooting, most recently threatening them with arrest late Saturday night if they did not move their tents from the block.

The pair temporarily moved across the street before returning to the block, where they were still staying on Monday. Both accepted placement to the Navigation Center over the weekend along with others from the encampment (http://missionlocal.org/2016/04/homeless-residents-near-police-shooting-site-moved-to-navigation-center/) but said they were unsure of going.

Additionally on Monday, an employee of the Department of Public Health — who wished to remain anonymous — said that the city prioritized residents of the Shotwell Street encampment for intake to the Navigation Center ahead of others who were in "higher need" of shelter.

Late-Night Raid

In a scene of the late-night raid caught on video by a witness, residents of the encampment where Gongora lived had their tents dismantled by police near midnight on Saturday.

Police at the scene said they were searching for a stolen motorcycle and did tow one away a from one of the dismantled tents.

Late-Night Police Search on Shotwell Street, Part Two (https://vimeo.com/162453052) from Mission Local (https://vimeo.com/missionlocal) on Vimeo (https://vimeo.com). Video courtesy of Adriana Camarena.

Stephanie Grant — one of the eyewitnesses to the shooting who has contradicted the police account — said Saturday night that officers have harassed her and her boyfriend multiple times since the shooting.

"They've been harassing him ever since he's gone on the TV," Grant said of her boyfriend John Visor, another eyewitness who has been widely interviewed for his account of the shooting. Visor said Gongora posed no threat to officers and was trying to run away when he was shot at seven times.

Gongora was a homeless resident of Shotwell Street between 18th and 19th streets who police say lunged at them with a 13-inch knife, prompting two officers to open fire. Officers first yelled at Gongora to drop the knife and then fired four beanbag rounds at him, and video of the incident shows that officers shot at Gongora within 30 seconds of exiting their vehicles.

Six witnesses have contradicted the police account and say Gongora did not lunge at officers with a knife. Three homeless residents of his encampment said the monolingual Spanish speaker did not understand the police commands and attempted to run away after being hit with the bean bag rounds.

Three other witnesses also said they did not see Gongora lunge at officers. One — a passer-by who spoke with Mission Local last week (http://missionlocal.org/2016/04/video-more-witness-testimony-emerge-around-sfpd-shooting-of-homeless-man/) — said that Gongora had what looked like trash in his hand and that she never saw Gongora stand up.

Two neighbors who saw the shooting from their windows across the street said that Gongora stood up when shot by beanbag rounds (http://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/apr/09/san-francisco-homeless-man-police-killing-luis-gongora) but did not threaten officers.

The police department held a press conference on Friday (http://www.sfexaminer.com/sfpd-witnesses-say-man-killed-by-police-was-coming-at-officers-knife/) and said at least three of 10 witnesses interviewed say Gongora threatened officers with a knife.

Police did not say what the other witness accounts stated, but are sure to speak more at an upcoming town hall — a meeting the department holds within seven days of any police shooting. Police have not yet decided on the date of that meeting.

Two Late-Night Visits in a Row

Homeless residents of the block have been fearful of police retaliation. Department of Public Works trucks picked up trash from the block on Friday near midnight just after city staff had moved nine people from the encampment to the Navigation Center — a homeless shelter that can accommodate entire encampments at once.

But residents of the encampment were suspicious of the timing (http://missionlocal.org/2016/04/homeless-residents-near-police-shooting-site-moved-to-navigation-center/), saying the city was scattering witnesses to the shooting.

On Saturday, Grant and Visor said police threatened them with arrest after banging on their tent with batons, prompting them to move their tent a block down from their spot near where Gongora was killed.

“They told us that if we didn’t move we were going to go to jail,” Grant said.

Late-Night Police Search on Shotwell Street, Part One (https://vimeo.com/162452874) from Mission Local (https://vimeo.com/missionlocal) on Vimeo (https://vimeo.com). Video courtesy of Adriana Camarena.

Markael Raybond — another homeless resident of the encampment — said the police also told him to move from the area and threatened arrest if his tent was not gone from the block by daybreak.

Raybond also said the police kicked and shattered candles near his tent meant to memorialize Gongora, a good friend of Raybond.

“They kicked the tent and broke the candles, saying ‘Get out, get out, SFPD. If you don’t get out we’ll take you to jail,’” he said.

Others had no warning. Adriana Camarena — a local activist who filmed the encounter — said some residents left the encampment when police arrived and that the police proceeded to dismantle the empty tents.

Late-Night Police Search on Shotwell Street, Part Three (https://vimeo.com/162453295) from Mission Local (https://vimeo.com/missionlocal) on Vimeo (https://vimeo.com). Video courtesy of Adriana Camarena.

“It was those tents, I believe it was three tents, that had been bashed,” Camarena said. Camarena saw at least three officers poking through tents alongside a city worker in a neon yellow vest, and said police exposed residents’ belongings to the rain. “There were people left without shelter that night and it was still raining.”

The police department did not immediately return requests for comment on the search.

Shelter for Residents a Political Maneuver

On Monday, a Department of Public Health employee who wished to remain anonymous said the city artificially prioritized residents from the Shotwell Street encampment for city shelter. The change granted the Shotwell Street homeless residents access to the Navigation Center meant for another Mission District encampment that was next for intake.

The employee said the homeless outreach team — which helps move people into the Navigation Center — was hoping to move an encampment on Cesar Chavez Street to the center but that those spots were instead taken by those living on Shotwell Street.

“Some of us are very upset that this sneaky, silent backdoor business is happening and putting other folks out of service,” the employee said, adding that “those [spots] were supposed to go to people who were in higher need.”

That contradicts statements made on Friday when Rachel Gordon, a spokesperson for the Department of Public Works, said the outreach team had been working specifically with the Shotwell Street encampment to get them to the Navigation Center since before the shooting.

According to the anonymous Department of Public Health employee, the outreach team had indeed been at the Shotwell Street encampment the day of the shooting, but not to move residents to the Navigation Center. They were called there because Grant — the eyewitness to the shooting — is seven months pregnant.

It was then that members of the outreach team noticed Gongora had a knife and called the police.

"The first HOT team person on the scene noticed he had a knife, didn't feel comfortable about the situation, called other members of the HOT team, and they decided to call the police," said the employee.

Members of the outreach team have become hesitant to call the police in the aftermath of the shooting, the employee added.

"I don't think we'll be doing that anymore," the employee said. Members of the team, the employee said, "will definitely be wary of calling the police in the future, especially on homeless folks."

Rachel Kagan, a spokesperson for the Department of Public Health, said she was not aware of the Cesar Chavez encampment being scheduled before the Shotwell Street one but said homeless residents of Shotwell Street were in need of shelter.

"Everyone in that area had just had a horrible experience, so we needed to move quickly to improve the situation for everyone involved," she said.

Crackdown on Homeless Encampments

The late-night visits Friday and Saturday nights followed comments made by Mayor Ed Lee (http://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/matier-ross/article/SF-mayor-plans-crackdown-on-homeless-camps-7238291.php)to the Chronicle on Friday that he would crack down on homeless encampments city-wide for public safety, starting with the Shotwell Street camp.

"I will be ordering the Shotwell camp to be taken down and for it not to come back," he told the Chronicle.

That move was backed by Supervisor Scott Wiener, who wrote in a Facebook post (https://www.facebook.com/ScottWiener2/posts/10153366716131968) that the shooting "raises the issue of weapons in these encampments" and said "it's time for firm action and a clear statement that tents are not part of our housing policy."

Not all were so supportive. Supervisor David Campos said the mayor's comments were a "knee-jerk" reaction that amounted amounted to "playing whack-a-mole" with encampments. He said Lee should instead focus on reform of the police department's use-of-force policy.

"It doesn't make any sense that the response of a mayor to the killing of a homeless person by police is to crack down even more on homeless people," he said. "If anything it will probably make things worse."

Back on Shotwell Street, residents are exhausted. Grant said the late-night visits from city staff and multiple interview requests from reporters since the shooting have worn her out.

"I am done with this whole situation," she said. "I can't take it anymore."

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Wally O'mara April 11, 2016 at 5:18 pm

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But ifso, I think there has to be documents, and its the job of journalist to make public record requests, asking for immediate same day release of the records.

Chad Russo

April 11, 2016 at 6:50 pm

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Susan

April 12, 2016 at 12:23 pm

I just don't know what to say. The political coverup and mistrust is great. Removing the encampments is not a solution to both growing problems. At risk, the elderly and children are being pushed further into the ugly underbelly of homeless that are druggies and deviants. I pray the the city and even myself, come up with with a humane solution. And the 'he had a knife and lunged' dialogue has got to stop as well. Please pray.

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Police brutality and homelessness collide in aftermath of San Francisco killing

The story of Luis Gongora, shot dead by police this week, reflects city's twin crises and raises alarming questions about the official and witness accounts of the shooting

Julia Carrie Wong in San Francisco

Saturday 9 April 2016 13.36 EDT

The morning after a homeless man in San Francisco was shot and killed by police, someone else had moved into his tent. "I can't say nothing," the new occupant said before moving into the small blue and grey tent on the sidewalk. "It's done."

The death of a homeless man on a busy California street is not uncommon. Neither, in a country in which 1,134 people died at the hands of law enforcement last year, are fatal police shootings.

Yet the story of how 45-year-old Luis Gongora was killed this week, pieced together from friends and neighbors - both those who sleep in tents and others who have roofs over their heads - raises alarming questions.

San Francisco police have released few details in a public relations campaign that appears intended to justify, before the completion of any investigation, the decision by two officers to shoot seven bullets from their .40-caliber service pistols.

Many locals in the Mission district of the city knew Gongora merely as a friendly Latino man who was always kicking a soccer ball against a wall.

One person who knew him a little better was the homeless man who, less than 24 hours after Gongora's shooting, was occupying his tent.

Like Gongora, Javier Chab Dzul, 40, was from Mexico. Previously, he had been sleeping in another tent, on the same block, under the same giant Ficus trees that provide shade to around a dozen residents in tents.

Dzul became homeless about a year ago. He spends much of his time painting the street and sidewalk with cheerful designs and flowers. His hands and clothes are splattered with paint.

"He's my friend," he said of Gongora, pointing out how the pair came from the same region of Mexico. "He's Yucatecan too."

Dzul knew little else about Gongora's background, though the two had lived mere yards apart for several months.

The fact Dzul chose to occupy his friend's tent so soon after he was shot dead by police should not, others said, be mistaken for callousness. "It doesn't mean we don't care," said Stephanie Grant, another resident of the encampment where Gongora lived and died. "That's basically how the streets go."

'He called me "hermano"'

Gongora was shot and killed by two police officers on Thursday, shortly after 10.00am.

Police say they were called to the scene by members of the city's homeless outreach team who reported a "suspect waving a large kitchen knife". Two of the responding officers opened fire - first with beanbag rounds and then with live ammunition.

Shortly after the shooting, police chief Greg Suhr told reporters that after the initial volley of beanbag rounds, Gongora "charged" at the officers with the knife. The officers then opened fire with live rounds.

That claim has been disputed by witnesses, including other residents of the encampment such as Grant and her partner John Visor, both witnesses to the incident.

Gongora was transported to a local hospital where he was declared dead around 1pm.

The shooting took place on Shotwell street, the same block as the homeless encampment where Gongora lived.

A few minutes earlier, Gongora had been hanging out in the tent of his best friend, Markale Raybon.

"I can see his face in my head," Raybon recalled Friday, as he sat in his tent - a bright orange shelter next to the one that used to be Gongora's and has now been inherited by Dzul.

Inside Raybon's tent were crammed two collapsible lawn chairs, a child's circus play tent, a shopping cart, a sleeping pad and bedding. A travel toiletry kit hung from the shopping cart.

"We were just hanging out right here smoking pot, and then he walked up the street kicking the ball. The next thing I knew, I heard the throttle of a car, and then I heard someone shouting, and the shots."

Raybon sipped on a soda that another member of the encampment brought him from Burger King. Moments later, recalling his friend, he wept.

"He was my brother. He called me 'hermano'." The pair would help each other out, sharing whatever food or money they managed to come by. "It was half down the middle with everything."

Raybon recalled once seeing Gongora standing on the sidewalk seemingly shouting to himself. He thought his friend had gone "crazy" until he approached close enough to realize that Gongora was using an earpiece to talk on the phone.

That was when Raybon learned that Gongora had childrenwith whom he stayed in touch. In the 24 hours since his death, the homeless residents have been trying to join the threads that might help them track down their friend's surviving relatives, but in the absence of resources they have been clutching at snippets of memory.

Grant remembered Gongora also had two brothers and an ex-wife living in San Francisco. She said she thought his brothers were living in housing somewhere, and that the ex-wife was homeless and "lives over by the freeway", but she could not be sure.

'I didn't even know his name'

Another of Gongora's neighbors was a 47-year-old documentary filmmaker named S Smith Patrick, who has lived in a second-floor loft on Shotwell street for 14 years. In all that time, the homeless encampment has been "a permanent fixture", she said, although the number of temporary residents ebbs and flows.

Patrick is heavily pregnant, and lives in the apartment with her partner and six-year-old son.

The presence of a homeless encampment outside their door hasn't been too much of a bother to the family. Once, she thought someone from the encampment had stolen her bicycle, but when she confronted them, they assured her that they knew her and wouldn't steal from her. They also offered her some of their bike parts.

"We never had a problem with him," Smith said of Gongora. She recalled how her young son would sometimes practice the Spanish he learned in class with the homeless man.

But the acquaintance with the man who kicked the soccer ball against the wall only went so far. "I didn't even know his name," she said.

Smith's block of Shotwell street is a cross-section of San Francisco's contradictions.

In the short stretch of road there are remnants of the Mission district's old industries - a warehouse, a utility company parking lot, an auto body shop. There are residential lofts inhabited by artists and young families like Smith's. There are tech company startup offices and construction crews converting former lofts into additional office space. And there are the homeless.

Other occupants of the block's homes and businesses shared similar stories of the soccer-ball kicking homeless man they saw everyday.

"We had interacted with him," said a neighbor who lives in the same building as Patrick and asked not to be identified. "He was a really decent fellow, not violent. We never worried about him."

"My husband kicked a ball back to him the day before it happened," a woman who works at one of the offices on the street said Friday morning. She had just finished writing a message on the makeshift memorial that has been erected at the site of Gongora's death. "I had a good cry this morning."

San Francisco's mayor Ed Lee, who has struggled to cope with both the claims of police brutality in the city and the issue of homelessness, said on Friday that Shotwell street's tents would be taken down.

"Once the various investigations have finished collecting evidence and completed their interviews of witnesses, I will be ordering the Shotwell camp to be taken down and for it not to come back," he told the San Francisco Chronicle. "When it comes to public safety, I'm not going to compromise with these camps."

By no stretch of the imagination

Earlier Friday, San Francisco police officials convened a press conference to reiterate their claims that Gongora had "charged" at the police officers who killed him with a knife.

Commander Greg McEachern reportedly said that one witness "saw the suspect stand up and lunge at the officers", and that another said that Gongora "rose up with a knife in hand and ran toward the officers".

Police also presented reporters with a photograph of the 13-inch butcher knife they said Gongora was carrying.

The San Francisco police department has faced intense criticism since December, when five police officers shot and killed 26-year-old Mario Woods, another man allegedly armed with a knife. Bystander video of that shooting appeared to contradict the police claim that Woods raised the knife toward one of the officers before the group opened fire.

The Woods shooting remains under investigation, and the police commission has initiated a process to update the department's use-of-force policy.

The police department's insistence that Gongora "charged" at the officers with a knife has already prompted several witnesses to come forward to challenge that account.

Patrick, the woman who lived opposite Gongora's tent, and whose six-year-old son occasionally spoke with him in Spanish, is the latest to contradict the police's version of events.

Her account, one of several provided to the Guardian, all of whom have contradicted the police's account, could be the most significant to date. Patrick saw the shooting from her apartment window, where she had an unobstructed view of the incident as it unfolded directly across the street.

"He never charged them. There's no way they were going to get hurt from the knife," she said, adding that she is "enraged" by the police department's version of events.

Patrick posted a widely shared account of the incident on social media network Nextdoor.com shortly after the shooting. However, she said she began to doubt herself after reading news reports that quoted police chief Greg Suhr saying that Gongora had moved toward the officers with a knife.

Patrick said she assumed that Gongora had threatened the police further down the street, before she looked out the window. She assumed she must have seen an incomplete segment of the incident.

But she changed her mind Friday after viewing surveillance video obtained by the San Francisco Chronicle. The video shows the police cruisers arriving on the scene and provides audio of the gunfire, which began just 30 seconds after the officers exited their cars.

The footage did not show the shooting itself, but it was enough to convince Patrick that she had witnessed the incident in its entirety.

Patrick said that she was sitting at one of four windows in her apartment when she heard someone shout, "Get on the ground." She ran to the next window and saw Gongora.

"He was on the ground, crouched with his head between his knees," she said.

She saw two police officers standing about 20 or 30 feet from Gongora, one carrying what looked like a rifle and the other with his hand at his belt. She heard two shots fired from the rifle - a less-lethal weapon that fires beanbag pellets - and then "live ammunition" being fired concurrently with additional beanbag rounds.

Patrick said she could differentiate the different types of ammunition because of her experience working as a film-maker in the West Bank.

"He didn't get up until they were shooting," she said. "I would by no stretch of the imagination say that he was charging them. His body was recoiling from bullets."

Patrick said that the police officers were moving "parallel" to the street, toward Gongora, but that once he stood up, he was moving "perpendicular" - as if to cross the street - until he fell. "It was after he was shot several times that the knife kind of fell from his body. I don't know if it came from his hand or his pocket, but he was never like this to somebody," Smith said, miming holding a knife up as if to threaten someone.

She added: "It's like they came out shooting. It's complete bullshit what's happening. There's no way that somebody deserved to lose their life."

Patrick's account of the shooting fills in key details that are missing from the surveillance video, which does not show the police officers while they were shooting or any view of Gongora.

It also corresponds with the account of another neighbor who said that he saw the entire incident from his kitchen window, also across the street.

"I watched the whole thing. It was absolutely fucking terrible," said the neighbor, who asked to remain anonymous out of fear of police retaliation. "I was at the kitchen window and it all started. They shot him with the bean bag, and he turned to block the shots and gestured, like, 'What the fuck?' And that's when they shot him."

The neighbor added: "He was not really threatening. He wasn't running at them with a knife or anything like that. They just jumped right out and 20 seconds later he was dead."

Last rites

On Friday morning, Gongora's friend, Stephanie Grant, sat in the large blue tent steps from where Luis Gongora's blood is still visible on the sidewalk.

She was exhausted. She too is pregnant, due to give birth on 1 June, and the events of the previous day - witnessing her friend's killing, recounting the tale to police and journalists - had been overwhelming.

But Grant is determined to tracked Gongora's family members so that his body can be released from the morgue.

The rituals we use to mark the end of a life seemed far out of reach for Gongora's friends. The people who knew him best have no legal right to claim his body. Even if they could, they have no money to pay for his burial.

A priest from the neighborhood has offered to set up a fundraiser, and Grant said she hopes that will make the difference.

"People won't give money to us because they'll think we'll just steal it," she said. "We're not like that. It would mean a lot to me if he had a proper memorial."

If you have information about this incident please contact julia.wong@theguardian.com

An earlier version of this story incorrectly stated the distance between the police officers and Gongora. This version has been corrected

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SF police fatally shoot homeless man they say wielded knife

By Kale Williams and Evan Sernoffsky Updated 6:37 am, Friday, April 8, 2016

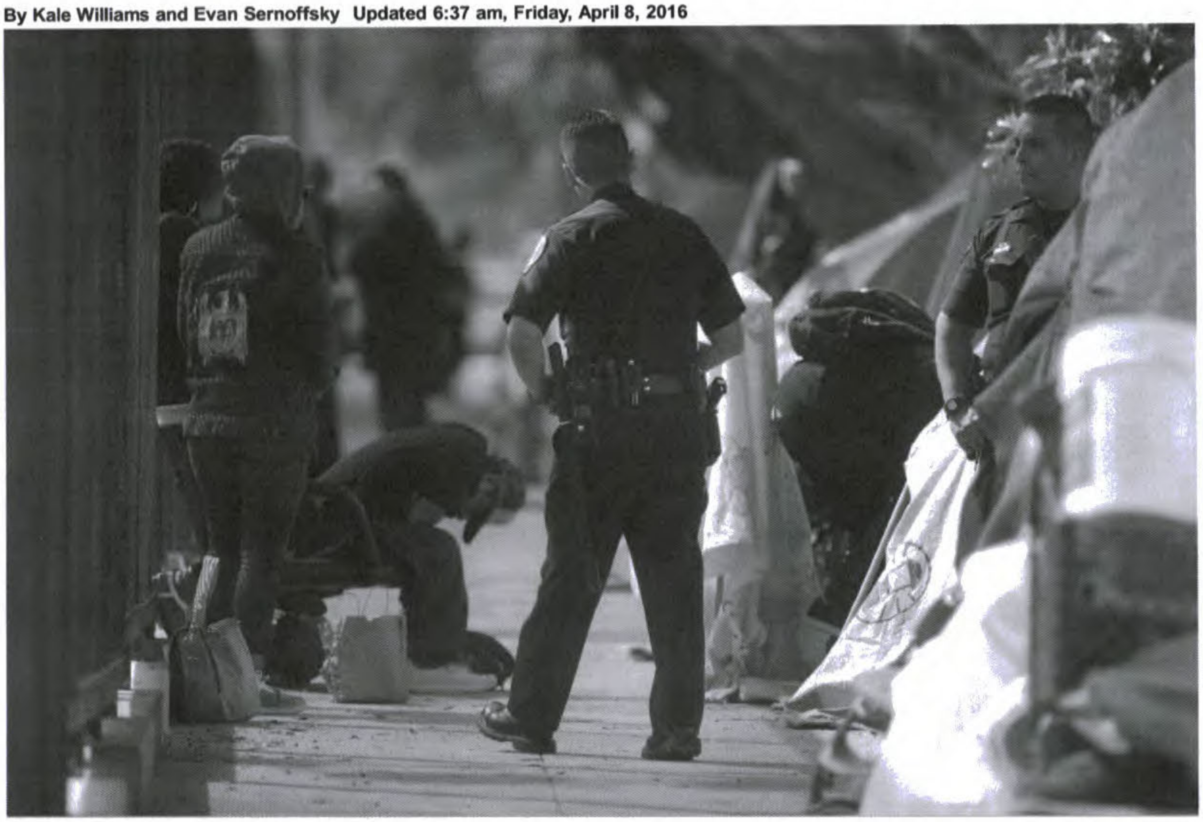

IMAGE 1 OF 16 Buy Photo

Members of the SFPD investigate at a homeless encampment along Shotwell Street between 18th and 19th Streets after an officer involved shooting on Thursday, April 7, 2016 in San Francisco.

San Francisco police shot and killed a homeless man who was reported to have challenged officers while wielding a nearly foot-long kitchen knife Thursday in the city's Mission District, police Chief Greg Suhr said.

But several witnesses at the scene contradicted Suhr's version of events, saying the Spanish-speaking man, who was not immediately identified, never challenged the officers and probably didn't understand what police were saying before he was shot.

The episode was the first deadly officer-involved shooting since the controversial Dec. 2 killing of Mario Woods, a 26-year-old stabbing suspect who police also say wielded a kitchen knife when officers shot him in the Bayview.

Thursday's encounter began around 10 a.m. when workers from the city Department of Public Health's Homeless Outreach Team called 911 after they were threatened by the man waving the large kitchen knife on Shotwell Street between 18th and 19th streets, Suhr said at the scene while reading from a police dispatch log of the incident.

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The outreach workers went to the scene to look into a report from a neighbor that a disturbance was going on in one of the homeless encampment tents in the area, according to sources familiar with the situation.

"The HOT team members are very highly trained in de-escalating people, but when they can't because there are weapons or they feel like the situation is out of control they do call the police — and it's very rare when they do," said Rachael Kagan, spokeswoman for the Department of Public Health.

Officers arrived minutes later and deployed at least four less-lethal beanbag rounds in an attempt to subdue the man, police said. Suhr said the man challenged police with the knife, and two officers fired a total of seven rounds.

The Police Department did not release the names of the officers.

Paramedics rushed the man to San Francisco General Hospital, where he died after going into surgery.

"Anytime this kind of thing happens, it's no less tragic," Suhr said.

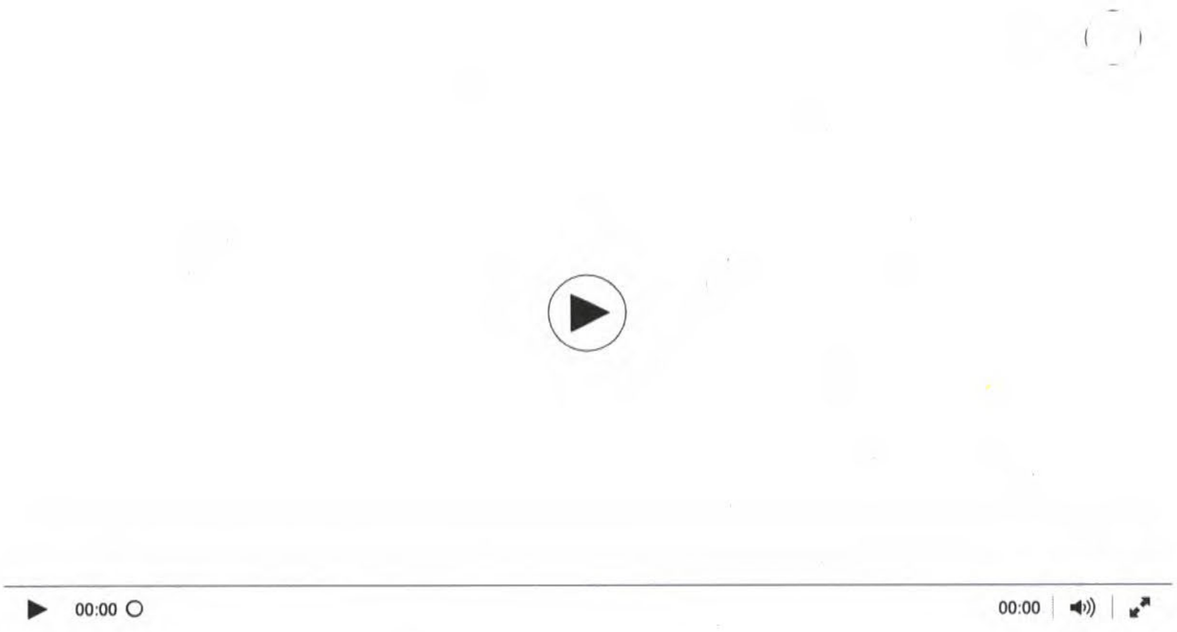
City investigates shooting

Mayor Ed Lee said Thursday that he is calling for an independent investigation into the shooting from the Office of Citizen Complaints, while the district attorney's office conducts its own investigation. The officers have been placed on paid administrative leave while the incident is investigated, in keeping with standard protocol.

"We are all striving to make sure officer-involved shootings are rare and only occur as a last resort," Lee said in a statement. "And, while we don't know all the facts of this morning's officer-involved shooting, we do know that Homeless Outreach workers providing services to homeless people in the area called the police for help after encountering a person armed with a knife."

Two of the man's friends disputed police accounts of the encounter. John Visor, 33, and Stephanie Grant, 31, live at a homeless encampment on Shotwell and said they were roughly 10 feet from the man when police arrived.

Visor said the man was sitting by a wall when police shot him with beanbag rounds.



“He didn’t charge the officers,” Visor said. “He was going in circles. He didn’t understand what they were saying. They just shot him. They just shot him.”

Visor said the man carried a knife for safety but that he didn’t have it out when police arrived.

“Everyone carries something for safety,” Grant added.

It was the second time in recent months that violence ensued after law enforcement officers confronted a homeless man with a knife in San Francisco. On Feb. 2, Noel Corpuz allegedly stabbed California Highway Patrol Officer Andre Sirenko in the neck, leaving him severely injured during a run-in near the Essex Street on-ramp to Interstate 80. Corpuz was later arrested in the city’s South of Market neighborhood, still armed with a large kitchen knife, police said.

Visor said the man killed Thursday was friendly and often collected cans and kicked a soccer ball around the area. Neighbors told police the man had been living on the streets in the area for several months.

“He didn’t ever charge,” said one neighbor, who saw the shooting from his kitchen window and asked to remain anonymous. “It seemed unnecessary. He didn’t move toward them, but you could tell he was mad.”

The witness said the man was seated against a wall on the east side of the street with his hands on his knees when officers arrived. He appeared to be holding something, he added, but he couldn’t make out what it was other than it was black and resembled a notebook.

He said the man stood up and raised his arms out to the side, seemingly angry that he was being shot with beanbags, then “one of the officers yelled, ‘Drop it,’ but he didn’t and that’s when they started shooting.”

Marco Rahmani, the office manager at Kaiser Glass at 19th Street and South Van Ness Avenue, said he heard the gunshots and ran over to see what was going on.

“I ran over and saw a guy lying on the floor in a red shirt,” he said. “I didn’t recognize him, but I didn’t see his face. I know there are too many homeless, but it’s very sad.”

Growing homeless problem

Rahmani said he has noticed the homeless population growing on Shotwell in recent months and that he avoids walking on the street. But he said he has never witnessed any violence in the area.

Streets were shut down into the afternoon while investigators processed the scene.

Thursday's shooting comes amid contentious discussions between city officials and the police union on proposed reforms to the department's use-of-force policy in the wake of Woods' killing.

That shooting was captured on video and showed Woods shuffling along a wall with his arms at his sides when five officers opened fire, hitting him with as many as 15 rounds. The killing sparked outrage from some community members and police watchdog groups and prompted a unanimous vote from the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to create a Mario Woods Remembrance Day.

In February, Suhr and Lee proposed a shift in use-of-force tactics, particularly for when officers encounter suspects with edged weapons. The reforms are designed to reduce police killings and rebuild community trust.

"Reforms will ensure officers have the training and equipment necessary to protect our communities, keep our city safe and protect the safety of our officers," Lee said Thursday.

Seeking reforms

When announcing the proposed new policies in February, Suhr stressed the need for officers to create more time and space when engaging suspects with knives.

The San Francisco police union, however, has blasted the efforts, saying some of the policies may endanger officers. Many in the rank and file have agreed to some of the proposed changes, including crisis-intervention training for all officers, and equipping them with stun guns.

"This tragedy might have been prevented if our officers were equipped with Tasers, which the Police Commission has repeatedly blocked," said Martin Halloran, president of the San Francisco Police Officers Association.

Halloran said one of the officers involved in the shooting had completed crisis intervention training and tried to verbally de-escalate the situation.

"Based on the preliminary facts that we've learned so far, it appears that the officers acted appropriately," he said.

A group of nearly 100 protesters marched around the Mission on Thursday night, beginning at Buena Vista Horace Mann school. They marched to the site of the shooting and then to the Mission police station, said Brother Damian of the Society of St. Francis in San Francisco.

Brother Damian, who regularly works with the homeless population, said someone "in my congregation died."

"We have to speak truth, we have to speak love, and that always means justice," he said.

Chronicle staff writers

Kevin Fagan and Jenna Lyons contributed to this report.

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SFGATE http://www.sfgate.com/crime/article/Video-shows-San-Francisco-police-shooting-7237146.php

SF police shooting unfolded in 30 seconds, video shows

By Kale Williams and Vivian Ho Updated 8:00 pm, Friday, April 8, 2016

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Two San Francisco police officers who killed a homeless man they say charged at them with a knife in the Mission District advanced on the man quickly, firing four beanbags and then seven bullets at him within 30 seconds of stepping out of their patrol vehicles, video footage of the incident shows.

The surveillance video, provided anonymously to The Chronicle, provides a clear picture of some aspects of the encounter that unfolded just after 10 a.m. Thursday on the 400 block of Shotwell Street, but does not show what the man — identified Friday by the city medical examiner as 45-year-old Luis Gongora — was doing at the moment police opened fire. Gongora was just outside the camera's frame.

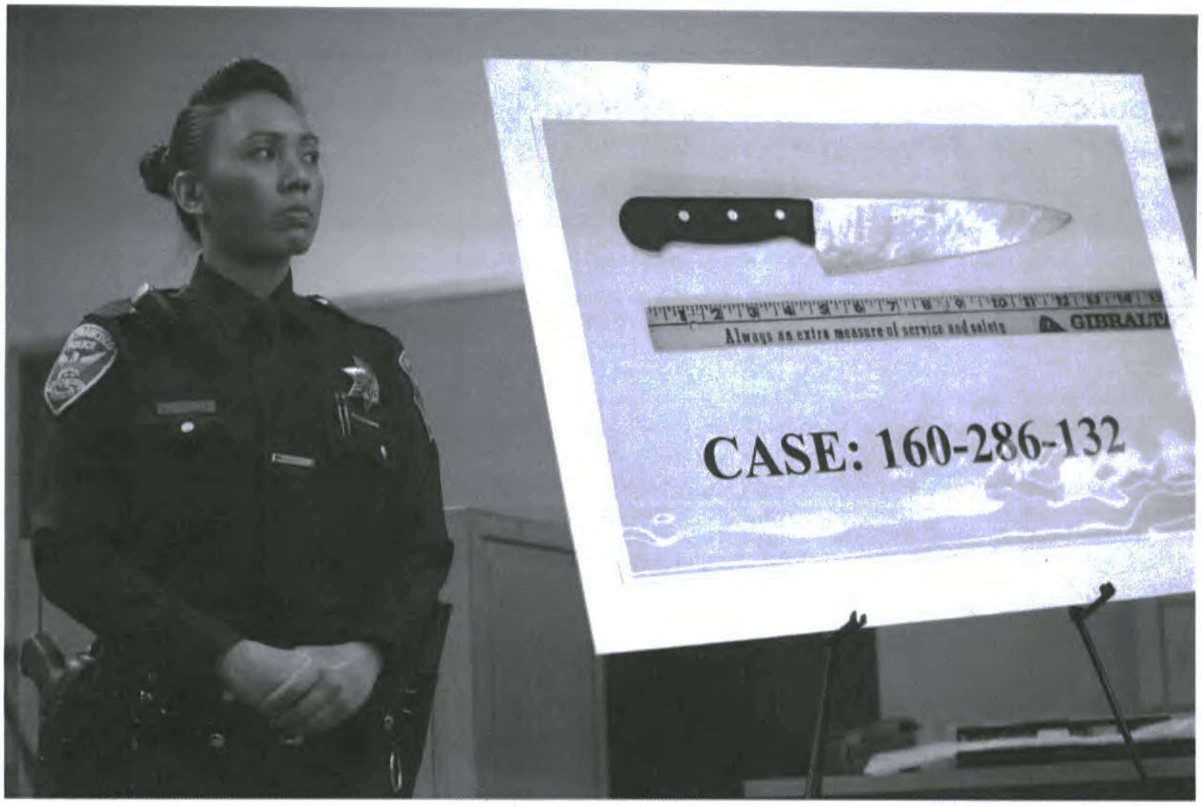
Still, some community leaders who viewed the video were dismayed by what it showed, saying it appeared the officers made little to no effort to use the de-escalation and crisis-intervention tactics that have been hotly discussed in the months after the department's last officer-involved shooting in December.

"From the video, it appears that the officer came at the situation guns blazing," said Jennifer Friedenbach, executive director of the city's Coalition on Homelessness. "Basic principles of de-escalation were not followed. The officer did not create 'time and distance.' No verbal de-escalation was conducted at all."

While the video does not show the shooting itself, police officials said at a news conference Friday that witnesses to the killing have described Gongora lunging at the officers before they fired, contradicting three witnesses who provided accounts to The Chronicle and said Gongora had not directly threatened the officers.

Contradictory accounts

Cmdr. Greg McEachern, flanked by a photo of a 13-inch knife allegedly found next to Gongora, said one witness told investigators that "he saw the suspect sitting prior to the shooting, (then) saw the suspect stand up and lunge at the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San Francisco police spokeswoman Grace Gatpandan stands attentively at the Hall of Justice, Friday, April 8, 2016 in San Francisco. Police held a news conference to update members of the media about the fatal ... more

officers." A second witness said Gongora "rose up with a knife in hand and ran toward the officers," McEachern said, adding that a third witness echoed that statement.

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McEachern said a witness who told reporters Gongora spoke only Spanish had, in fact, told police the two had a conversation in English. The commander did not discuss the video, other than to say the department has a copy.

The officers involved in the shooting, whose names have not been released, were being interviewed Friday as police searched for additional witnesses and video, he said.

The incident began when city homeless outreach workers — who had responded to a report of a disturbance in a homeless encampment — called 911 to say a man was waving a large kitchen knife. Officers arrived minutes later.

Police Chief Greg Suhr said officers, under a department strategy for trying to subdue subjects with knives, first fired beanbag rounds, but that they were not immediately effective. Gongora challenged police with the knife, the chief said, prompting two officers to fire seven bullets. The wounded man was rushed to San Francisco General Hospital, where he died after going into surgery.

Some witnesses at the scene, however, contradicted the police account. They said Gongora spoke only Spanish, never challenged officers and probably didn't understand what they were saying before he was shot. The witnesses said there was no one else near Gongora when the officers approached him.

"He didn't charge the officers," said John Visor, 33, who was living in a tent on Shotwell Street and said he was roughly

10 feet from Gongora when police arrived. “He was going in circles. He didn’t understand what they were saying. They just shot him. They just shot him.”

‘Get on the ground!’

Visor said Gongora carried a knife for safety, but that he didn’t have it out when police arrived. He said Gongora was friendly and often collected cans and kicked a soccer ball around the area. Neighbors told police the man had been li

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The footage obtained by The Chronicle, taken by a camera on the side of a building, shows three marked patrol cars pulling slowly up to the 400 block of Shotwell Street between 18th and 19th streets and parking in the middle of the roadway. Three officers, all of them men, emerge from the police cruisers. The driver of the car in front gets out with a beanbag shotgun and walks to his left to the sidewalk.

Within 10 seconds of getting out of his car, the officer points the gun at someone out of the frame and shouts, “Get on the ground! Stay on the ground!” The officer is moving forward, and a second officer joins him at his side. A few seconds later the officer with the beanbag gun again shouts, “Get on the ground.”

Moments later, both officers appear to shout at the man, commanding, “Put that down” and “Put it down.” The officers continue to advance and move out of the frame. Two more seconds pass before the first beanbag blast, which is followed by three more in short succession. The officer with the weapon can be heard pumping it to ready it for the next shot. The officers can be heard shouting more orders at the man.

Moments later — within 30 seconds after the first officer got out of his car — a burst of seven gunshots is heard. The two officers are still out of frame when the gunshots begin, but then can be seen retreating back into the frame as they fire the final shots.

A third officer is then heard reporting “Shots fired” over his radio as witnesses on the street cry out in shock and a woman on the opposite sidewalk bursts into a sprint away from the scene.

December killing

It was the first deadly police shooting in San Francisco since the Dec. 2 killing of Mario Woods, a 26-year-old stabbing suspect who police say had a knife in his hands when several officers opened fire, hitting him with as many as 15 rounds in the Bayview neighborhood.

Woods was also struck with beanbag rounds before officers resorted to their pistols. In that case, officers said they fired in self-defense, but video footage showed Woods was shot as he shuffled slowly along a wall, without appearing to directly threaten officers. The killing is under investigation.

After Woods’ death, the city Police Commission began working on revisions to the department’s use-of-force policy, with Suhr submitting a draft proposal putting more of an emphasis on communication, de-escalation, proportionality of response and the “sanctity and preservation of all human life.” Thursday’s shooting was disappointing to many who have been following the reform talks.

“All this conversation we’ve had since Mario Woods, has that all been for naught?” said Micaela Davis, a staff attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union. “Have there been any meaningful changes made in the department? It appears not.”

Davis voiced a similar concern as Friedenbach, saying, “The speed of which the officers arrived on scene and the short amount of time that lapsed from the time they got out of the car, approached the man and fired those shots shows that they did not leave any time for de-escalation tactics."

But Ed Obayashi, a sheriff's deputy in Inyo County and use-of-force expert, noted that the video does not show what the officers saw. There may have not been time for de-escalation, he said, if Gongora posed a serious threat to the officers.

"These situations can escalate in a nanosecond," Obayashi said. "There's no time to deliberate and the officers react based on their training and experience."

Independent inquiry

Mayor Ed Lee called for an independent investigation into the shooting by the civilian Office of Citizen Complaints, while police and the district attorney's office conduct their own probes. The officers have been placed on paid leave, in keeping with department protocol.

"We are all striving to make sure officer-involved shootings are rare and only occur as a last resort," Lee said in a statement.

Kale Williams and Vivian Ho are San Francisco Chronicle staff writers. Email: kwilliams@sfchronicle.com, vho@sfchronicle.com Twitter: @sfkale, @VivianHo

Shooting video: To view footage of the fatal police shooting, go to: http://bit.ly/1SVx1bp. (Note: The video does not show the shooting itself, but may be disturbing to watch.)

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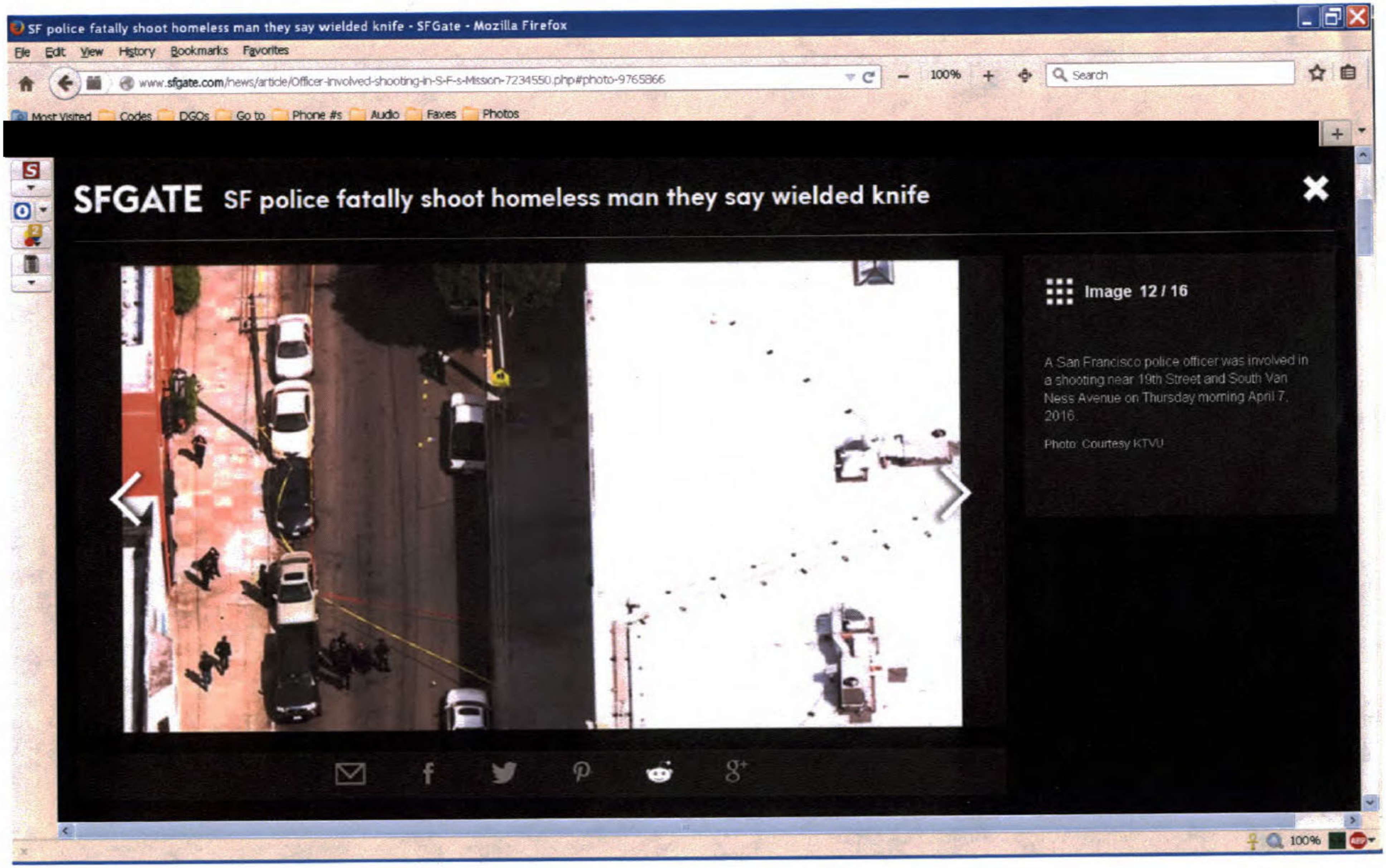
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SFGATE SF police fatally shoot homeless man they say wielded knife

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A San Francisco police officer was involved in a shooting near 19th Street and South Van Ness Avenue on Thursday morning April 7, 2016.

Photo: Courtesy KTVU

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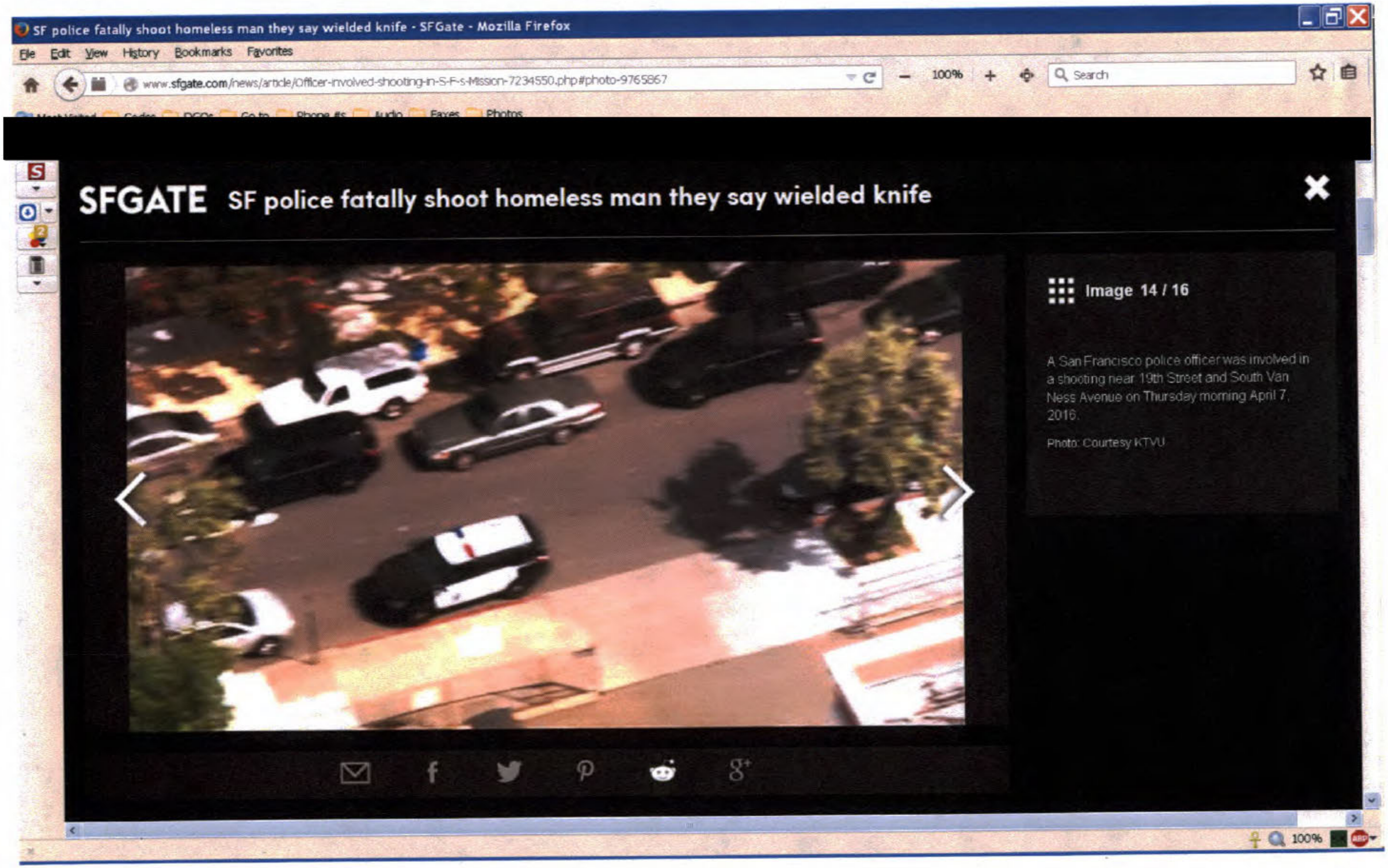
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SFGATE SF police fatally shoot homeless man they say wielded knife

Image 14 / 16

A San Francisco police officer was involved in a shooting near 19th Street and South Van Ness Avenue on Thursday morning April 7, 2016.

Photo: Courtesy KTVU

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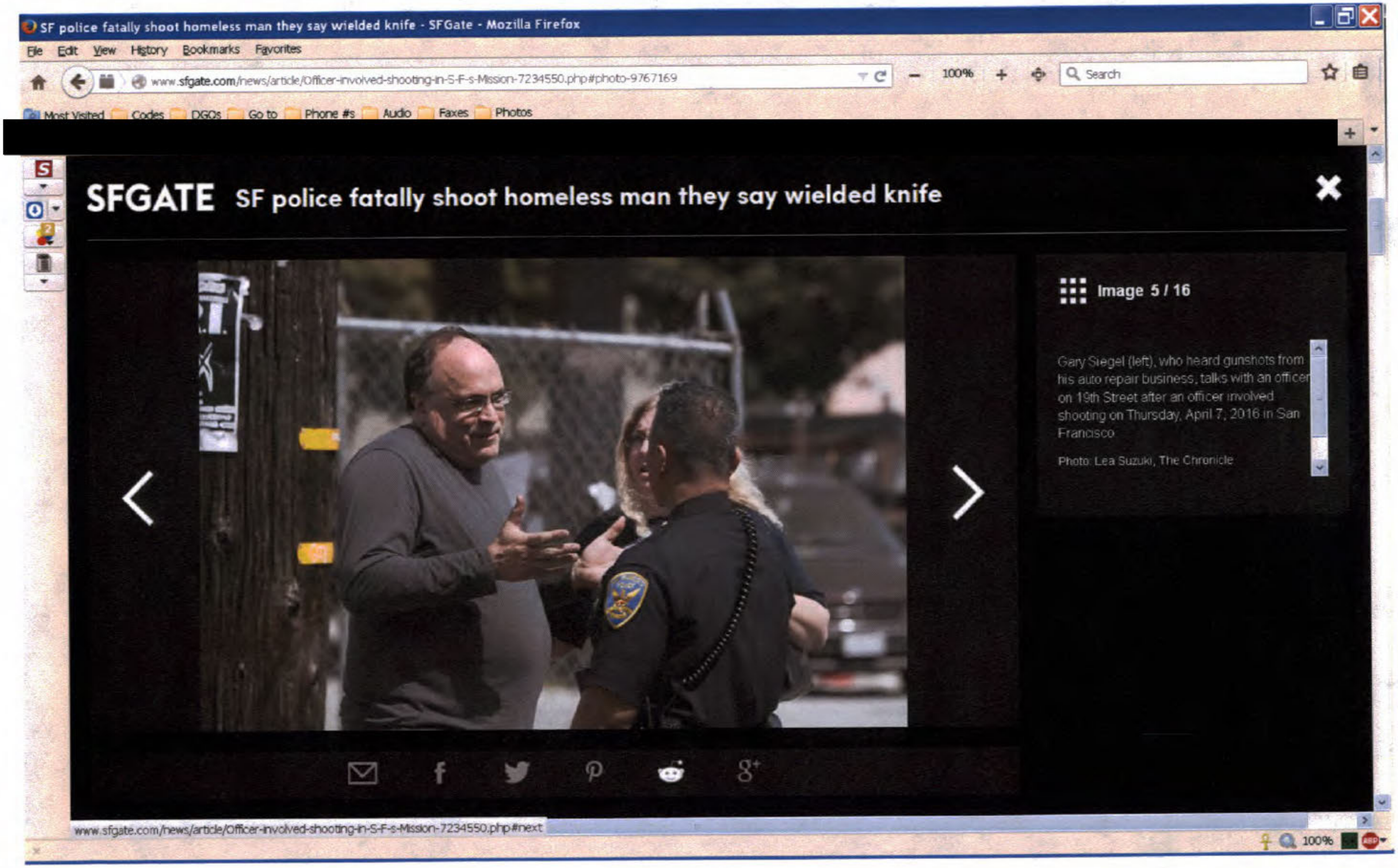
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Gary Siegel (left), who heard gunshots from his auto repair business, talks with an officer on 19th Street after an officer involved shooting on Thursday, April 7, 2016 in San Francisco

Photo: Lea Suzuki, The Chronicle

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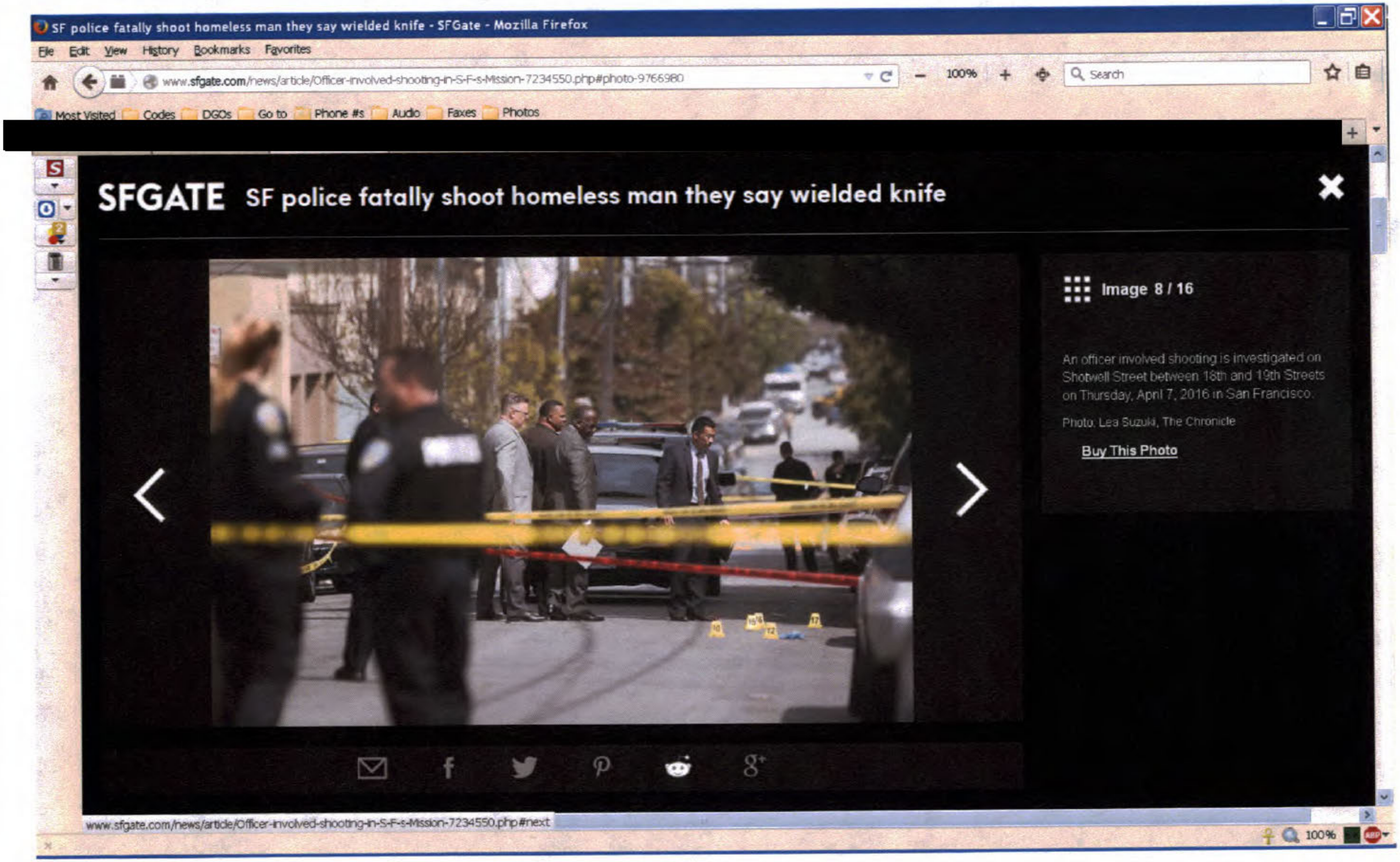
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SFGATE SF police fatally shoot homeless man they say wielded knife

Image 8 / 16

An officer involved shooting is investigated on Shotwell Street between 18th and 19th Streets on Thursday, April 7, 2016 in San Francisco.

Photo: Lea Suzuki, The Chronicle

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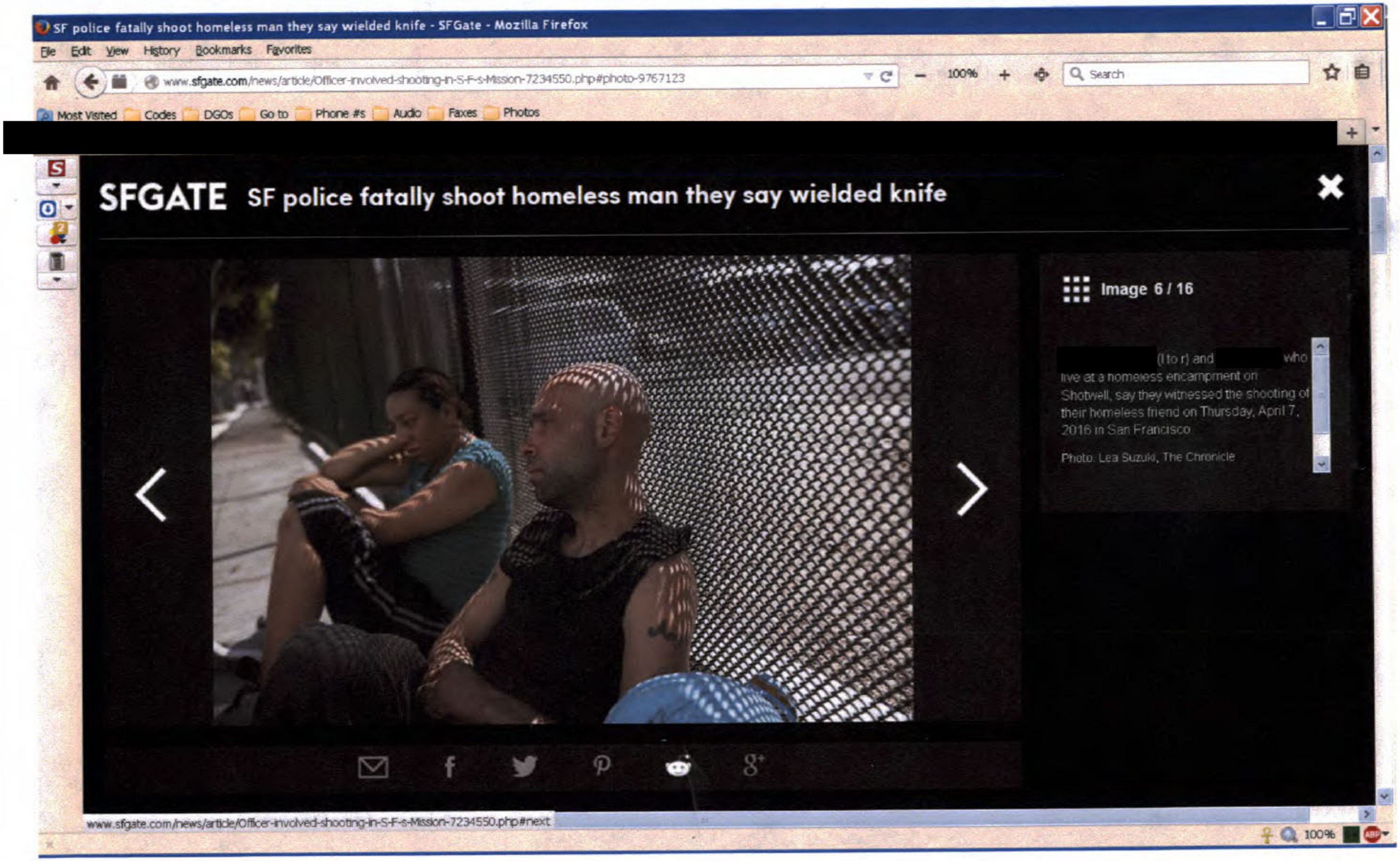
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SF police fatally shoot homeless man they say wielded knife

[redacted] (l to r) and [redacted] who live at a homeless encampment on Shotwell, say they witnessed the shooting of their homeless friend on Thursday, April 7, 2016 in San Francisco

Photo: Lea Suzuki, The Chronicle

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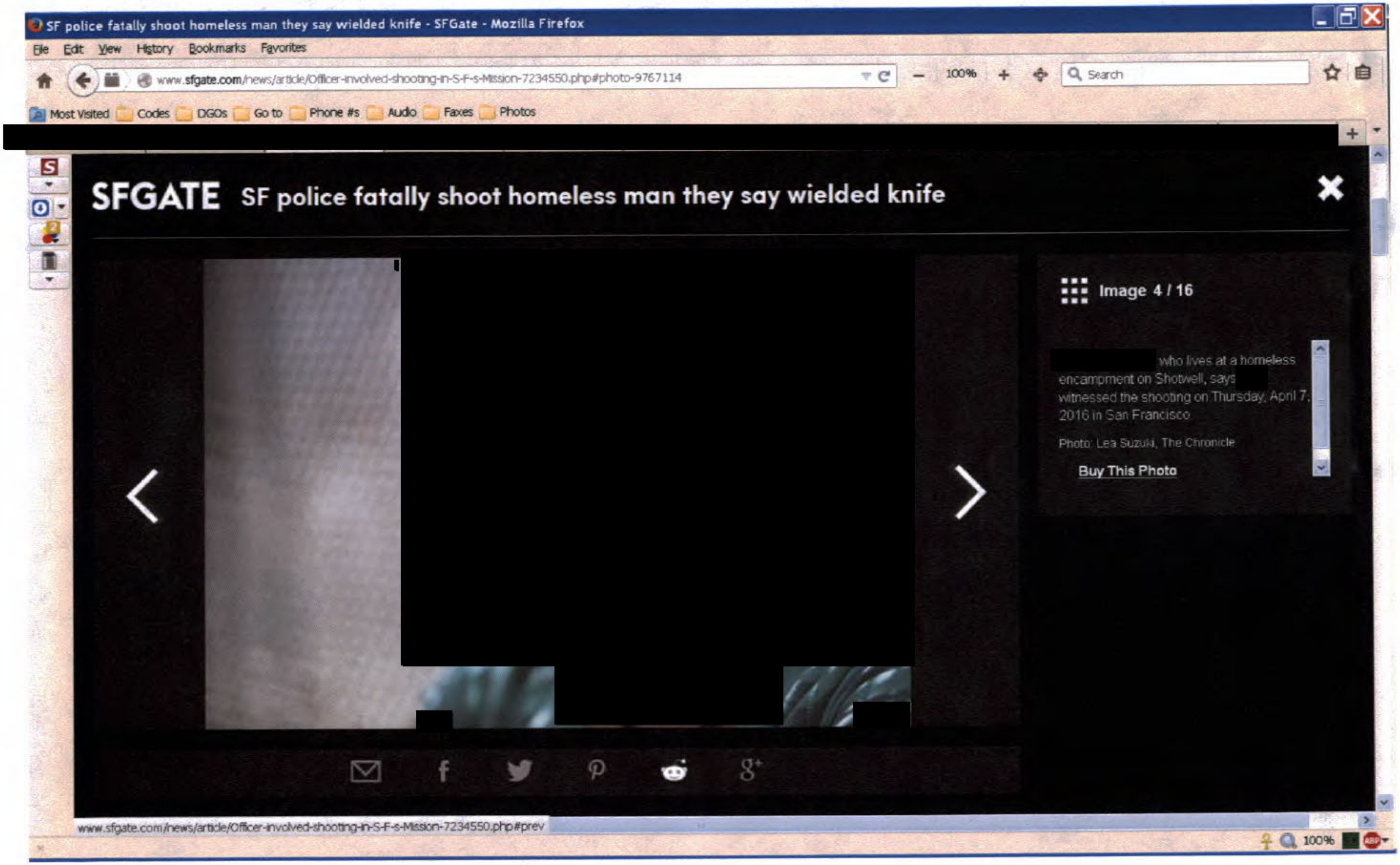

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SFGATE SF police fatally shoot homeless man they say wielded knife

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Image 4 / 16

[redacted] who lives at a homeless encampment on Shotwell, says [redacted] witnessed the shooting on Thursday, April 7, 2016 in San Francisco.

Photo: Lea Suzuki, The Chronicle

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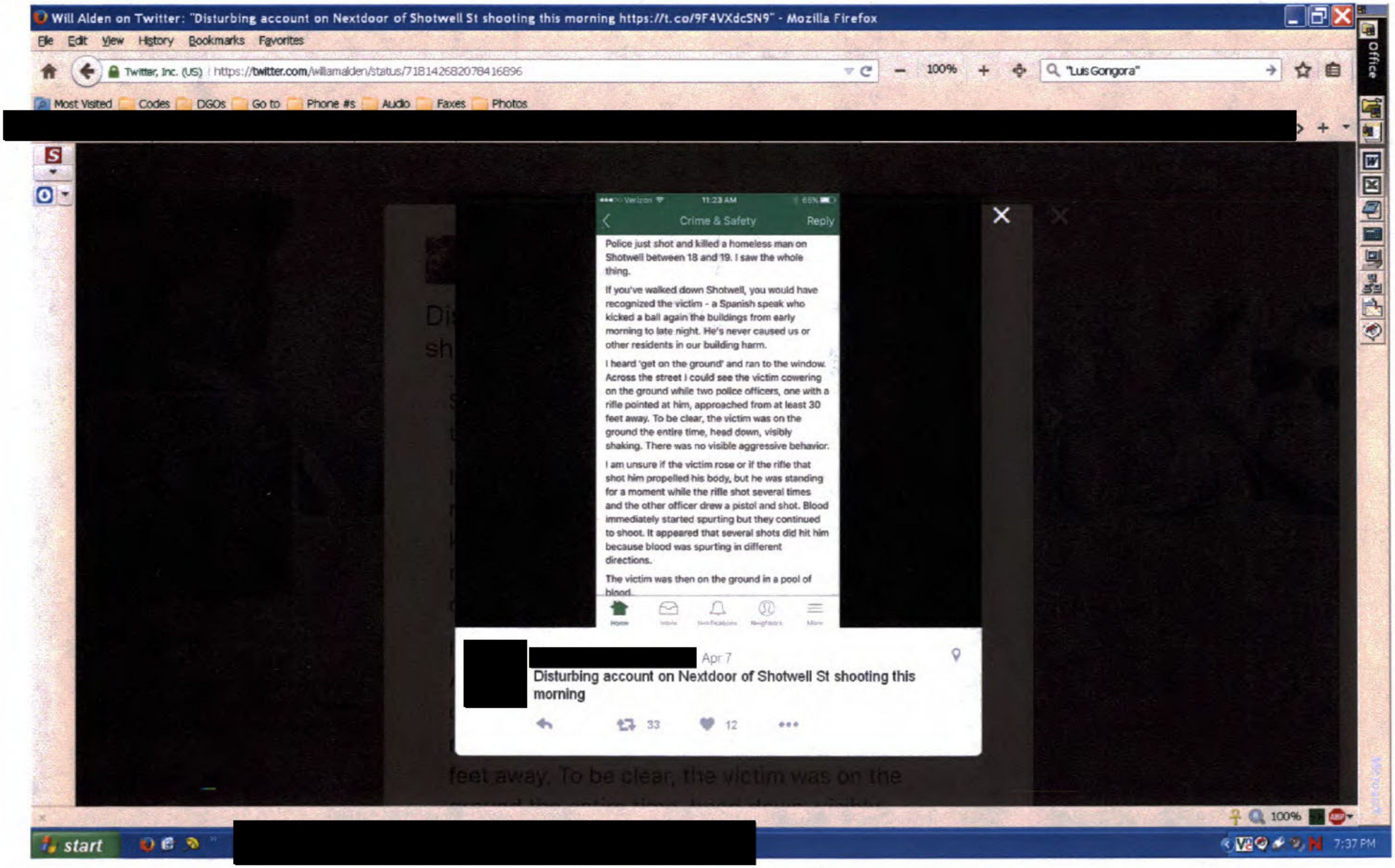
Will Alden on Twitter: "Disturbing account on Nextdoor of Shotwell St shooting this morning https://t.co/9F4VXdcSN9" - Mozilla Firefox
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[redacted]

Police just shot and killed a homeless man on Shotwell between 18 and 19. I saw the whole thing.

If you've walked down Shotwell, you would have recognized the victim - a Spanish speak who kicked a ball again the buildings from early morning to late night. He's never caused us or other residents in our building harm.

I heard 'get on the ground' and ran to the window. Across the street I could see the victim cowering on the ground while two police officers, one with a rifle pointed at him, approached from at least 30 feet away. To be clear, the victim was on the ground the entire time, head down, visibly shaking. There was no visible aggressive behavior.

I am unsure if the victim rose or if the rifle that shot him propelled his body, but he was standing for a moment while the rifle shot several times and the other officer drew a pistol and shot. Blood immediately started spurting but they continued to shoot. It appeared that several shots did hit him because blood was spurting in different directions.

The victim was then on the ground in a pool of blood.

[redacted] [redacted] Apr 7

Disturbing account on Nextdoor of Shotwell St shooting this morning

[redacted]

SFGATE http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/Officer-involved-shooting-in-S-F-s-Mission-7234550.php

SF police fatally shoot homeless man they say wielded knife

By **Kale Williams and Evan Sernoffsky** **Updated 6:37 am, Friday, April 8, 2016**

IMAGE 4 OF 16 **Buy Photo**

Stephanie Grant, who lives at a homeless encampment on Shotwell, says she witnessed the shooting on Thursday, April 7, 2016 in San Francisco.

MORE BAY AREA NEWS

Jerry Brown signs bill expanding state family leave benefits

2 UC Berkeley grad students file harassment complaint with state

'Star Wars' syncs up well with 'Dark Side of the Moon'... coincidence?

San Francisco police shot and killed a homeless man who was reported to have challenged officers while wielding a nearly foot-long kitchen knife Thursday in the city's Mission District, police Chief Greg Suhr said.

But several witnesses at the scene contradicted Suhr's version of events, saying the Spanish-speaking man, who was not immediately identified, never challenged the officers and probably didn't understand what police were saying before he was shot.

The episode was the first deadly officer-involved shooting since the controversial Dec. 2 killing of Mario Woods, a 26-year-old stabbing suspect who police also say wielded a kitchen knife when officers shot him in the Bayview.

Thursday's encounter began around 10 a.m. when workers from the city Department of Public Health's Homeless Outreach Team called 911 after they were threatened by the man waving the large kitchen knife on Shotwell Street between 18th and 19th streets, Suhr said at the scene while reading from a police dispatch log of the incident.

SF police fatally shoot homeless man they say wielded knife

[redacted]

SF police fatally shoot homeless man they say wielded knife

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SF police fatally shoot homeless man they say wielded knife

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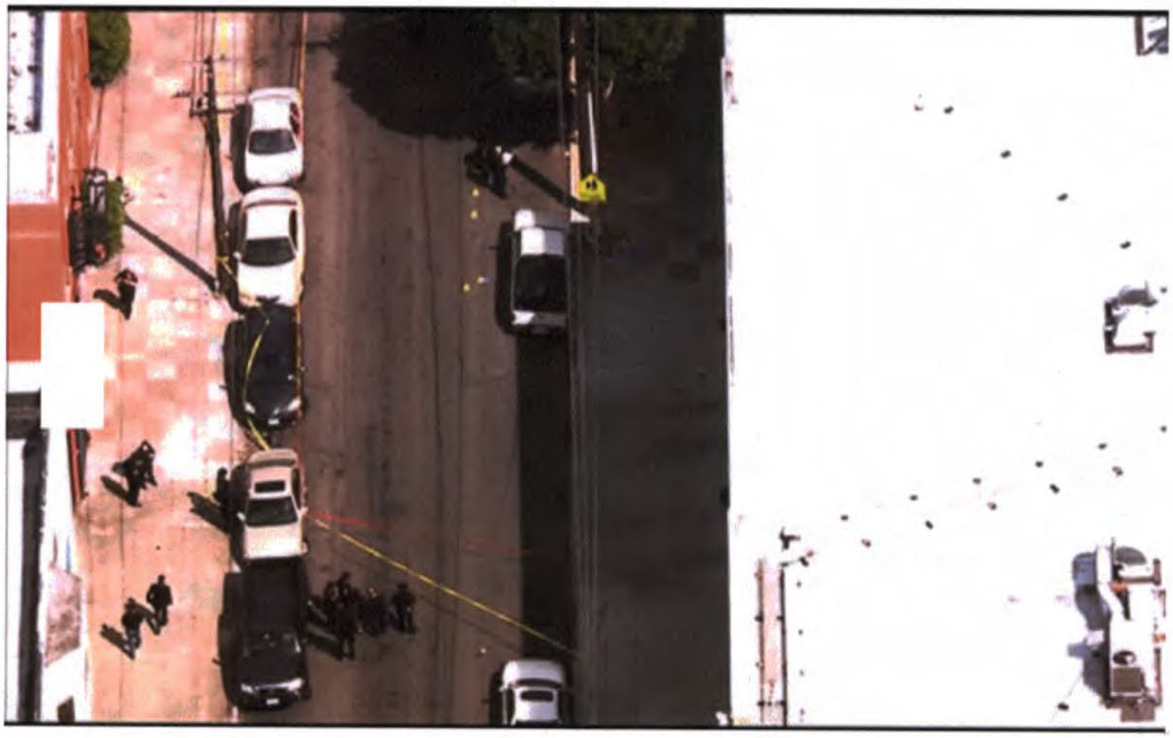
SF police fatally shoot homeless man they say wielded knife



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April 21, 2016:

National Student Day of Action to STOP Police Terror!

I[illegible] knew that a murderer was living next door would you do something? What if you witnessed the murder happen, would you demand justice for them? What if countless people were losing their lives every day at the hands of one notorious gang? **We have all seen the videos of the crimes the police commit against humanity**--killing people who are running away, have their hands up, are laying on the ground or doing nothing. People beaten, tased, stomped, choked and shot to death. If a photo is worth a thousand words, you would assume a video would be worth enough to indict, convict, and send these killer cops to jail. **And yet they continue to get away with murder.** If you are Black or Brown, you live under that threat every day of your life. If you don't, you probably know someone who does. There is a genocide happening right under our noses. It is a slow genocide now, but you look at people like Trump and you see how this genocide could escalate. **The time to fight this is NOW!**

We the students are taking a collective stance in opposition to the mass murder of men and women from our communities. We have seen the United States government commit genocide against the indigenous peoples of the world, enslave and torture Africans as well as support and finance global terror through countless wars. What has changed? That's why we the students stand up in opposition to the perpetual terror and brutality carried out by the state via the police. **The changes that we want to see in the world do not happen by hashtags and Facebook likes, they happen by rising up and fighting for the future you want to make a reality.**

On April 21, we the students are calling for a national day of action—walkouts, protests, powerful manifestations of resistance on campuses across the country—in which we pose to each other the question: Which side are you on? If you are disgusted by the systematic murder of citizens by the state, if you oppose the targeting and disproportionate mass incarceration of Black and Brown people, you need to be a part of this strike and make a statement by standing with your fellow students as well as community members. However, if you feel that these issues do not pertain to you, know this: I[illegible]ey come for people of color but you are not, then they come for women but you are not, then they come for the poor but y[illegible] are not, who will be left to protest in your name?

We as students have a crucial role and responsibility in standing up to STOP police terror. 50 years ago students took up the fight against the war in Vietnam, the Black and Chicano liberation struggle, the Women's liberation movement. And they helped to rock this system to its foundation. Today we need to do even more and go even further. Students always get asked what your major is, what career you want... but how often do we get asked what kind of world you want to live in? Everything in society is telling us to find our place within this messed up system. **On April 21, we declare that we refuse to live in a world where law enforcement has a green light to brutalize and murder people.**

STOP POLICE TERROR! WHICH SIDE ARE *YOU* ON?

SFSU - MALCOLM X PLAZA
RALLY & MARCH 12 NOON APRIL 21st

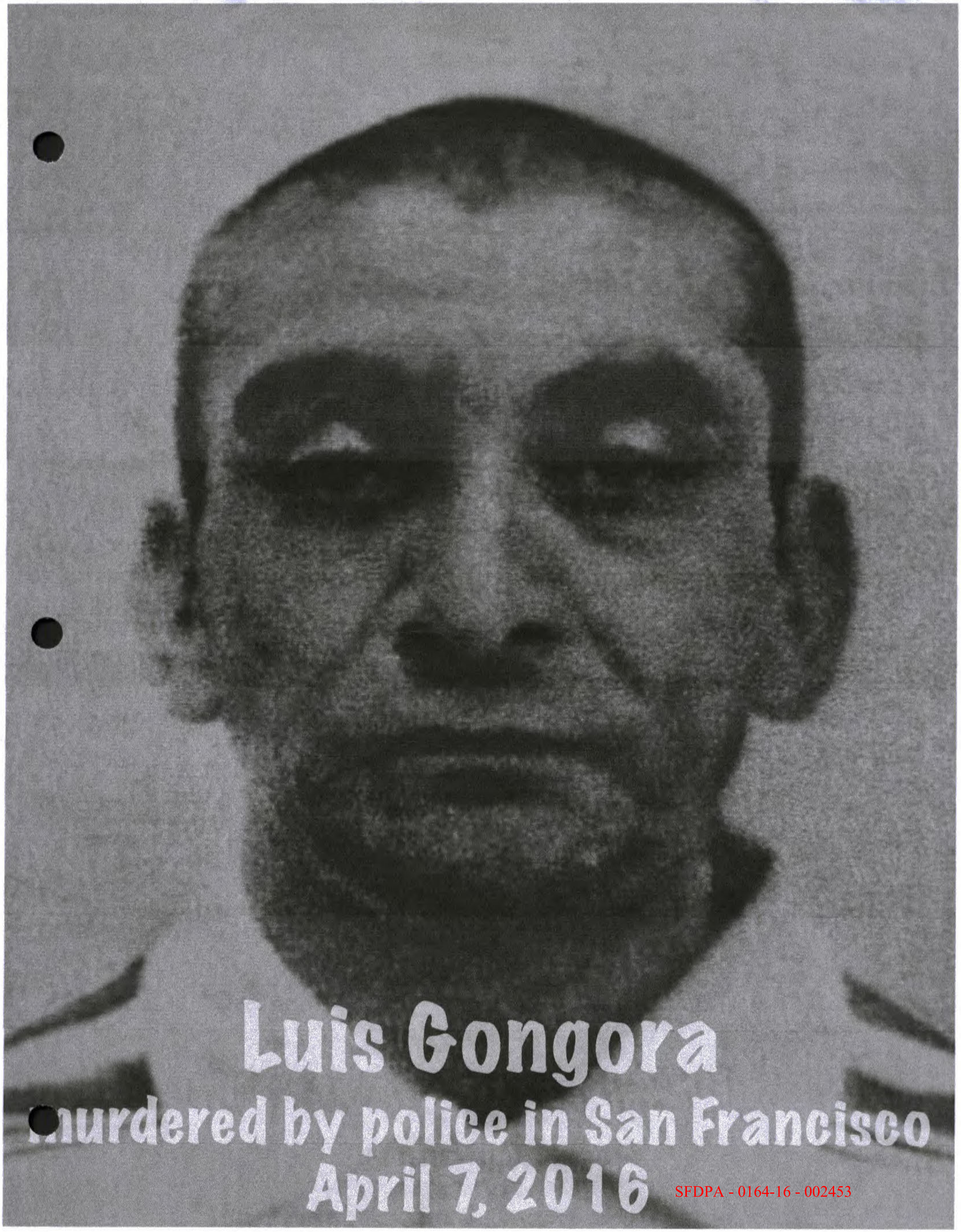
Issued by students at San Francisco State University and joined by students at UCLA, UC Riverside, Cal State East Bay, Antelope Valley College...

Endorsed by these Voices of Conscience: **Carl Dix**, Revolutionary Communist Party, USA; **Cornel West**, philosopher, academic, social activist, author; **Alice Walker**, novelist, poet, activist; **Arturo O'Farrell,** pianist, composer, educator

Endorsed by these Stolen Lives Families: **Wanda Anderson**, aunt of Christopher Anderson, killed by police in Zion, IL, November 3, 2014; **Paris Bey**, cousin of Janisha Fonville, killed by Charlotte-Mecklenburg police, February 8, 2015; **Gabriel Black Elk**, brother of Paul Castaway, killed by Denver police, July 12, 2015; **Yohana Flores**, daughter of Ernesto Flores, killed by San Bernardino Co. Sheriffs, April 15, 2015; **Kimberly Griffin**, mother of Kimoni Davis, killed June 29, 2015, by Ohio State Highway Patrol; **Nicholas Heyward Sr.**, father of Nicholas Heyward Jr., 13 years old, murdered by a New York City cop in 1994; **Alice Howell**, grandmother of Justus Howell, murdered by Zion, IL police, April 4, 2015; **Trisha Michael,** twin sister of Kisha Michael, murdered by Inglewood CA police, February 21, 2016; **Rev. D. Ishtyme Robinson**, mother of Ahjah Dixon, died in custody, Corsicana, TX jail, March 2010; **Tyaisha Simmons**, LaReko Williams Family Support, tased to death by C[illegible]rlotte-Mecklenburg Police, July, 2011; **Christopher Silva,** brother of David Silva, murdered by Kern Co. Sheriffs and CHP, May 8, 2013; **[illegible]ie Valdez**, partner of Antonio Guzman Lopez, killed by San Jose State University police, February 21, 2014

Endorse online at StopPoliceTerror.org

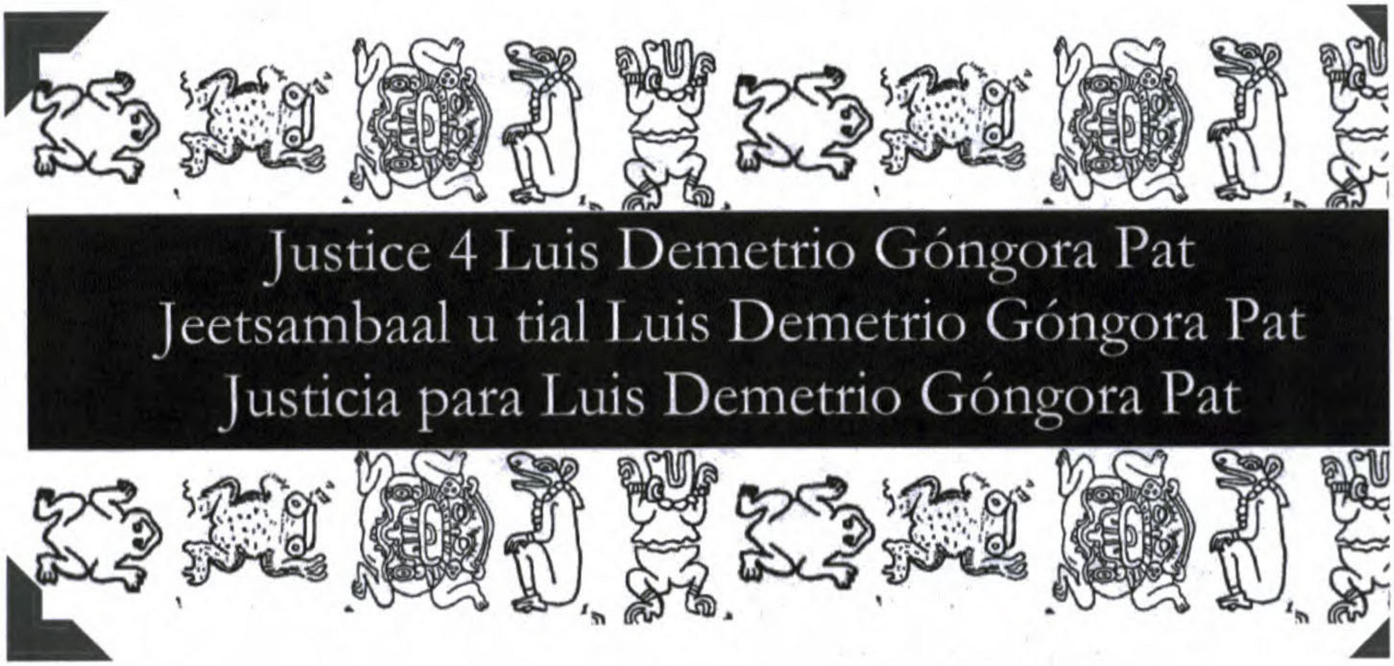
Stop Mass Incarceration Network / National Phone 646-709-1961 / National Student Contact 510-631-6996


Luis Gongora
murdered by police in San Francisco
April 7, 2016

On behalf of the family of Luis Demetrio Gongora Pat, Laura Guzman is sharing the only picture his San Francisco family has in possession. Luis was born in Teabo, Yucatan on 4/25/1970 - he would have turned 46 in a couple of weeks. A Yucatec Mayan, he is survived by his brothers Jose and Carlos Gongora Pat and his cousin Luis Pot Pat, his only family members in the United States, and his spouse, three grown children and his elderly parents, all in Yucatan, Mexico. The Gongora Pat family extends their gratitude to the outpour of love and support for Luis after his murder last Thursday. Asociacion MAYAB and MNRC are assisting family members to connect with appropriate services, and they will be ready to join community efforts after they receive appropriate legal counsel.

sfbaycantwait.net

Home Luis's Story Get involved!


Justice 4 Luis Demetrio Góngora Pat
Jeetsambaal u tial Luis Demetrio Góngora Pat
Justicia para Luis Demetrio Góngora Pat

Justice for Luis Demetrio Góngora Pat

killed by SFPD on April 7, 2016

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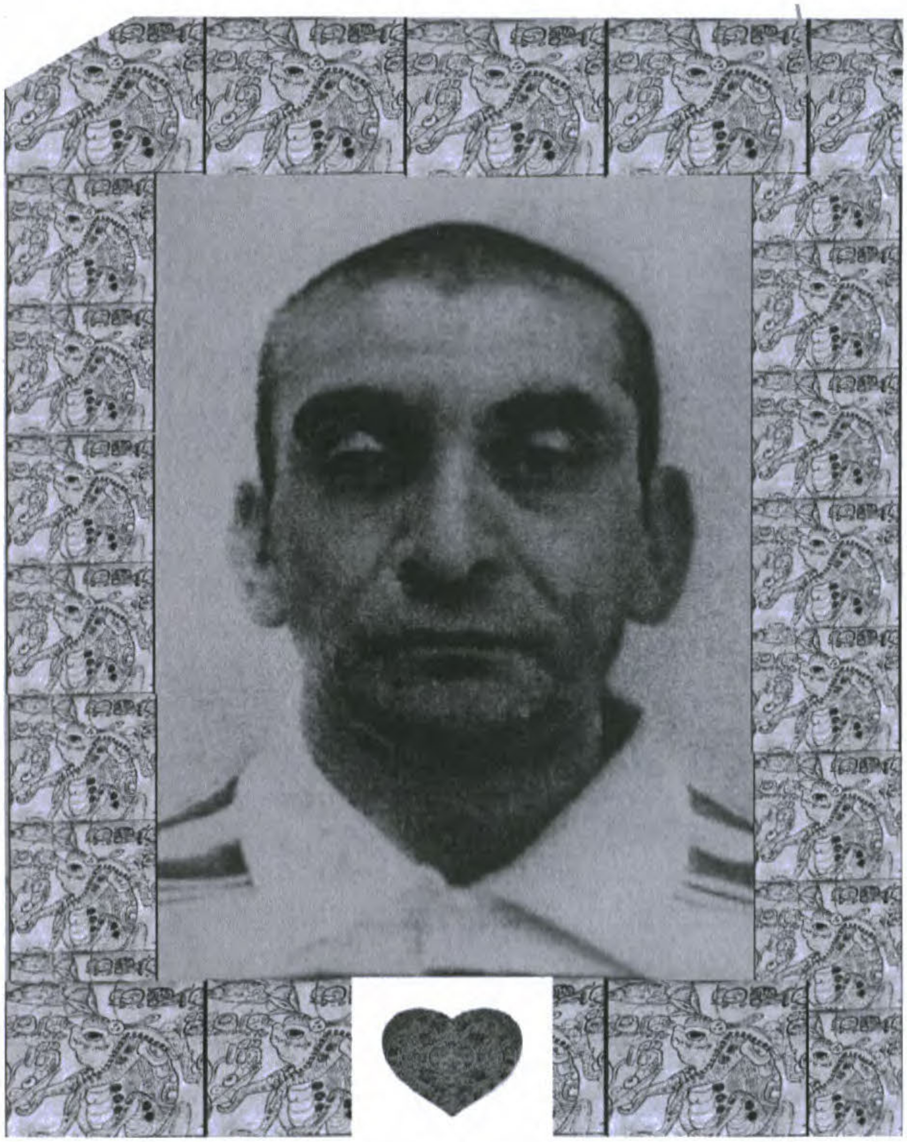

Luis's Story

Who was Luis?

Luis Demetrio Góngora Pat was born in Teabo, Yucatan on 4/25/1970; he was nearly 46 years old at the time of his death. A Yucatecan Mayan, he is survived by his spouse, three grown children and his elderly parents in Yucatan, Mexico. Luis is also survived by brothers and cousins in San Francisco. Family called him Luis or by his nickname Sapo.

Luis Demetrio Góngora Pat nació en Teabo, Yucatán el 25/04/1970; él tenía casí 46 años al momento de su muerte. Luis era Maya Yucateco y sus sobrevivientes incluyen a su esposa y tres hijos mayores, así como sus padres en Yucatán, México. En San Francisco, lo sobreviven hermanos y primos. La familia le llamaba Luis o por su apodo de cariño Sapo.

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What happened?

On April 7, 2016, at 10:04:14a.m., **Sergeant Nate Seger** and **Officer Michael Mellone** first fired four bean bag shots, followed immediately by seven bullets at Luis Demetrio Góngora Pat, a Mayan-Mexican living in a homeless encampment on Shotwell Street between 18th and 19th Streets in the Mission District of San Francisco.

Thirty seconds transpired between the moment that officers arrived on scene to the moment that they killed Luis Góngora Pat. A surveillance camera video obtained by KCBS caught the actions of the officers: "In the clip, officers are seen arriving in their patrol vehicles on Shotwell Street in the Mission District at about 10 a.m. Thursday morning without lights or sirens. They get out of their vehicles and advance on the homeless man who is outside of the frame.

Officers can be heard ordering the suspect to get down on the ground before discharging several non-lethal bean-bag rounds and then firing on the man with their service weapons." Source: KCBS

A third officer arrived behind the two other officers, but did not discharge his weapon. SFPD has not identified this officer who is also a witness to the shooting.

There is a rumored second video.

What do we know about the killer cops?

Source: KQED – "Sgt. Nate Steger is a 17-year-veteran of the department, according to a statement from Police Chief Greg Suhr on the seniority of officers involved in the shooting from earlier this week, and has spent much of his career assigned to the Mission District.

Officer Michael Mellone has a combined 13 years of experience in law enforcement, transferring to SFPD four years ago, according to Suhr's statements Wednesday.

[…] Mellone may have transferred from Antioch Police Department; a Detective Michael Mellone is named in a 2011 federal lawsuit against Antioch and six of its police officers alleging excessive force, unlawful search and seizure, assault, battery, false arrest and other civil claims."

What is the police narrative of the shooting?

Commentary: We preface this section by reminding readers that the officers involved in a fatal shooting are suspects in a homicide investigation. The SFPD homicide investigation unit investigates these officers. The version that SFPD *provides to the public is a biased narrative born of the SFPD's investigation of its own officers.*

At the Town Hall meeting at noon on Wednesday April 13th, 2016, Chief of Police Greg Suhr provided the following explanation. The images below are photos taken of the board exhibits that SFPD displayed at the Town Hall meeting.

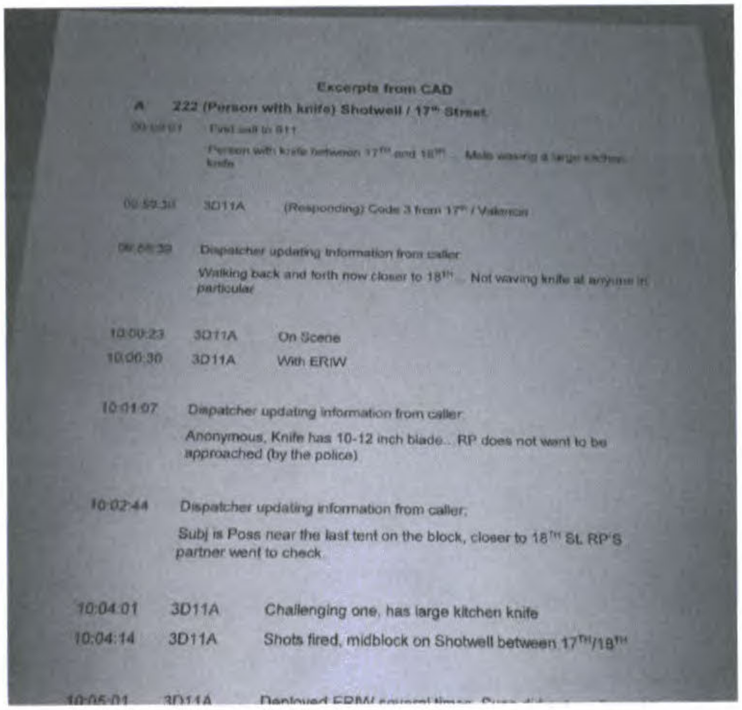
[No time provided]: SF HOT Team is called to Shotwell Street

Chief Suhr explained that the SF HOT Team was called to Shotwell Street by someone who heard the sound of a crying baby in the encampment. Chief Suhr confirmed that no crying baby was ever found at the encampment. He said the SF HOT Team was on foot at the encampment.

A member of the public asked Chief Suhr to make available a record of this alleged call about a crying baby to the HOT Team (e.g. 311 call, 311 app message, etc.)

9:59:01 SF HOT team members call 911

Source: 48 hills- Chief Suhr said that "Members of the Homeless Outreach Team called the police when they saw a man, now identified as Mr. Gongora, "forcefully kicking and bouncing a basketball against cars in the area." They proceeded to meet with other members of the homeless community, as they were about to leave they witnessed Gongora "swinging the knife around in a chopping motion," Suhr said.



Excerpts from CAD

A 222 (Person with knife) Shotwell / 17th Street

09:59:01 First call to 911
Person with knife between 17th and 18th ... Male waving a large kitchen knife

09:59:30 3D11A (Responding) Code 3 from 17th / Valencia

[illegible] Dispatcher updating information from caller
Walking back and forth now closer to 18th ... Not waving knife at anyone in particular

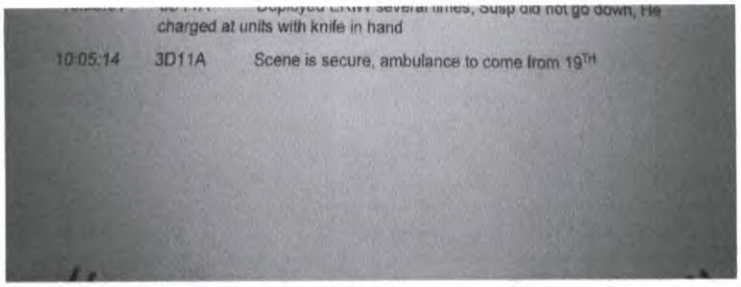
10:00:23 3D11A On Scene
10:00:30 3D11A With ERIW

10:01:07 Dispatcher updating information from caller
Anonymous, Knife has 10-12 inch blade... RP does not went to be approached (by the police)

10:02:44 Dispatcher updating information from caller;
Subj is Poss near the last tent on the block, closer to 18TH St. RP'S partner went to check

10:04:01 3D11A Challenging one, has large kitchen knife
10:04:14 3D11A Shots fired, midblock on Shotwell between 17TH/18TH

10:05:01 3D11A Deployed ERIW



several times, Susp did not go down, He
charged at units with knife in hand

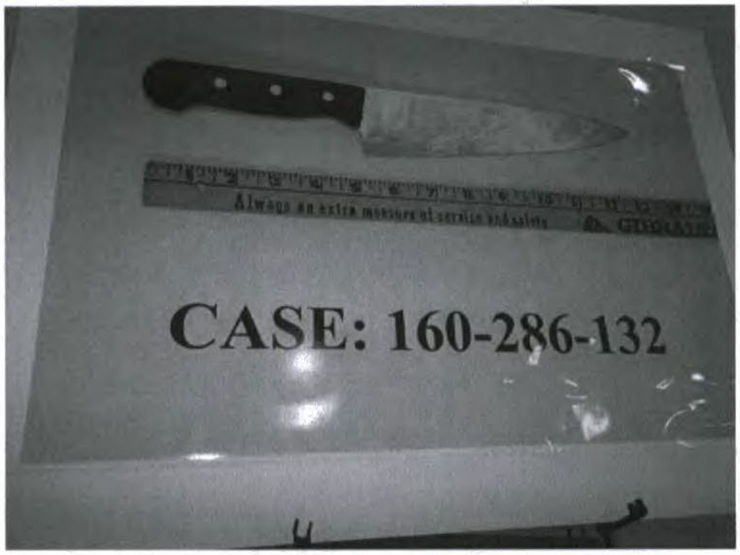
10:05:14 3D11A Scene is secure, ambulance to come from 19TH

Board posted by SFPD of CAD (911 call) at Town Hall meeting 4/13/2016; Chief Suhr was asked to publish original CAD and he said he would look into doing so soon.

10:04:01 Officers arrive and confront Luis

Source: 48 hills- Chief Suhr said "…Two officers arrived at the scene and, according to their statement, saw Gongora seated with a 13-inch knife in his hand "with the blade facing upwards."

"They ordered him to out *(sic)* the knife down multiple times, Mr. Gongora briefly placed the knife down with his hand still on top of the handle, only to pick the knife back up again" Suhr said. An enlarged photo of the knife was placed on display."



Board posted by SFPD of CAD (911 call) at Town Hall meeting 4/13/2016; Chief Suhr was asked to publish original CAD and he said he would look into doing so soon.

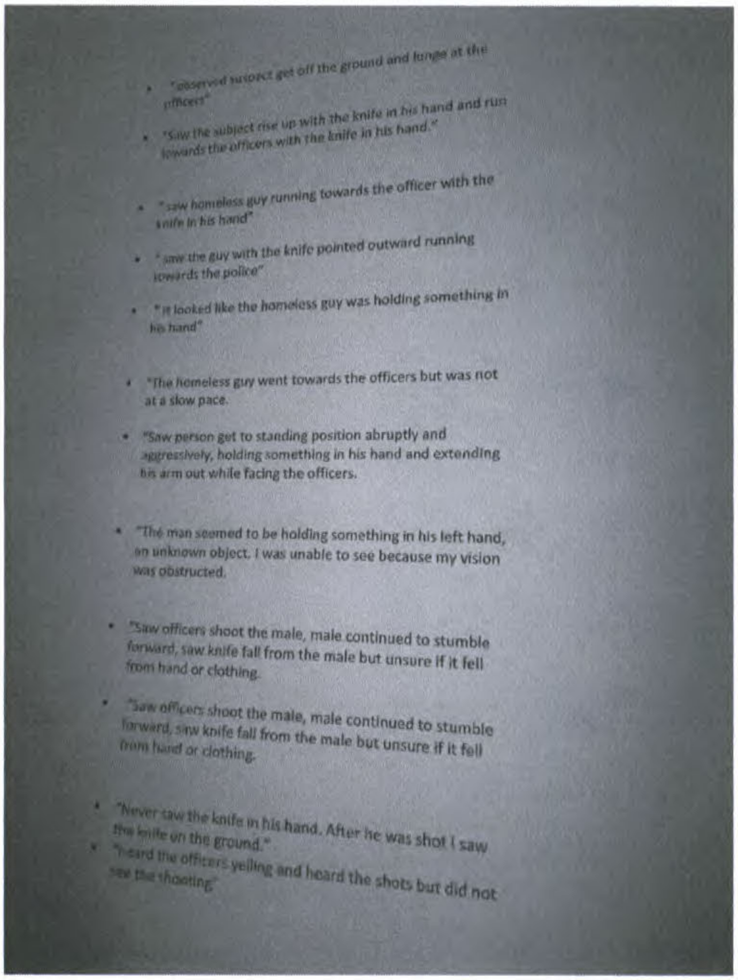
10:04:14 Officers shoot bean bag rounds and then bullets

Source: 48 hills- Chief Suhr said ""The first responding officer then fired four bean bag rounds in an effort to disarm him." Suhr then said Góngora lunged at one of the officers with knife in his hand. This is when, according to Suhr, the two officers fired seven shots, six of which hit Góngora.

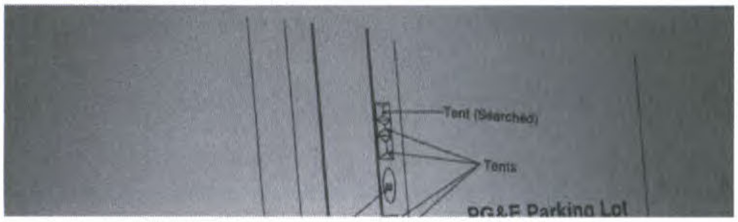
Suhr also added that the third officer who arrived on the scene shouted commands in Spanish, as three homeless neighbors Stephanie Grant, John Visor, and Rosalyn Barnett told the press that Góngora was a monolingual Spanish speaker who possibly did not understand police commands."

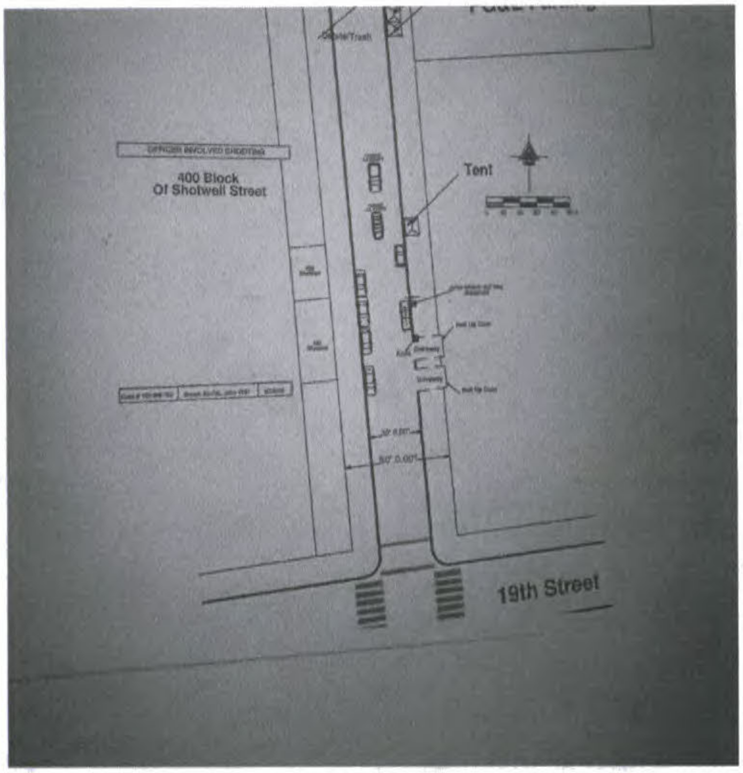
Witness statements selectively posted by SFPD

SFPD selectively posted quotes from witnesses on a board (see below). Queried by Adriana Camarena from Justice for Alex Nieto, Chief Suhr confirmed that those ten quotes belonged each to ten different witnesses, which included the two SF HOT Team members. However, on closer post-Town Hall meeting inspection, we noticed that two quotes are the same. Chief Suhr did not commit to publish the full witness statements, though it was requested for the sake of transparency. The names of witnesses were not attached to any of the following statements.



- "observed suspect get off the ground and lunge at the officers"
- "Saw the subject rise up with the knife in his hand and run towards the officers with the knife in his hand."
- "saw homeless guy running towards the officer with the knife in his hand"
- "saw the guy with the knife pointed outward running towards the police"
- "it looked like the homeless guy was holding something in his hand"
- "The homeless guy went towards the officers but was not at a slow pace.
- "Saw person get to standing position abruptly and aggressively, holding something in his hand and extending his arm out while facing the officers.
- "The man seemed to be holding something in his left hand, an unknown object. I was unable to see because my vision was obstructed.
- "Saw officers shoot the male, male continued to stumble forward, saw knife fall from the male but unsure if it fell from hand or clothing.
- "Saw officers shoot the male, male continued to stumble forward, saw knife fall from the male but unsure if it fell from hand or clothing.
- "Never saw the knife in his hand. After he was shot I saw the knife on the ground."
- "heard the officers yelling and heard the shots but did not see the shooting"





Map of Shotwell Street provided as a display at Town Hall meeting. No clear markings are provided of shooting site, nor where officers were positioned.

We believe SFPD is involved in a cover-up...

Commentary: SFPD's narrative of a shooting is structured to meet the legal standard of the SFPD General Order by which officers can use their firearms. In summary, the SFPD General Order allows them to use their weapons if they identify a risk of seriously bodily injury or death to themselves or another. SFPD fends off the possibility of criminal charges by the District Attorney against the officers involved or a civil lawsuit by family against these officers that the City Attorney must defend by giving a narrative that meets the requiremetns of the SFPD General Order. We believe SFPD's investigation of officer involved shootings cover-up any facts that may show that officers acted illegally. In theory, the District Attorney is also investigating the shooting, but because the D.A. and SFPD have a daily cooperative relationship, the D.A.'s investigation is also unreliable, because of serious concerns of bias in favor of SFPD. The terms of the law combined with the lack of independent investigations is one of the main reasons why cases against police fail.

Eight eye witnesses contradict the police narrative

Despite the boards displayed at the Town Hall meeting with statements allegedly from ten witnesses (which doesn't even add up numerically because one statement on the board is repeated), there are EIGHT eye witnesses that contradict the officer testimony as narrated to us by SFPD:

(1) S Smith Patrick

Source: Nextdoor and Facebook post by witness: "Friends – I witnessed the fatal shooting of a homeless man by police yesterday across the street from my home. The posting I released on a neighborhood watch group site follows.

Homeless man shot by police on Shotwell Street

Smith Patrick from Central Mission

Police just shot and killed a homeless man on Shotwell between 18 and 19. I saw the whole thing.
If you've walked down Shotwell, you would have recognized the victim – a Spanish speaker who kicked a ball again the buildings from early morning to late night. He's never caused us or other residents in our building harm. Interacting with him, one could tell he was mentally challenged.

I heard 'get on the ground' and ran to the window. Across the street I could see the victim cowering on the ground while two police officers, one with a rifle pointed at him, approached from at least 30 feet away. To be clear, the victim was crouching on the ground, head down, visibly shaking. There was no visibly aggressive behavior at that time.

I am unsure if the victim rose or if the rifle that shot him propelled his body, but he was standing for a moment while the rifle shot several times with what I learned to be bean bags, and the other officer drew a pistol and shot. Blood immediately started spurting but they continued to shoot. It appeared that several shots did hit him because blood was spurting in different directions.

The victim was then on the ground in a pool of blood.

Police and fire arrived within moments. They went through the motions of trying to revive him medically, but it was clear that he wouldn't live. So much blood.

This is incredibly disturbing and I'd like to pursue filing a report so that this case can be considered for future policy on this topic. If anyone knows any organizations that focus on this, please let me know."

S Smith Patrick also talked to The Guardian:

"Patrick said that she was sitting at one of four windows in her apartment when she heard someone shout, "Get on the ground." She ran to the next window and saw Gongora.

"He was on the ground, crouched with his head between his knees," she said.

She saw two police officers standing about 20 or 30 feet from Gongora, one carrying what looked like a rifle and the other with his hand at his belt. She heard two shots fired from the rifle – a less-lethal weapon that fires beanbag pellets – and then "live ammunition" being fired concurrently with additional beanbag rounds.
Advertisement

Patrick said she could differentiate the different types of ammunition because of her experience working as a film-maker in the West Bank.

"He didn't get up until they were shooting," she said. "I would by no stretch of the imagination say that he was charging them. His body was recoiling from bullets."

Patrick said that the police officers were moving "parallel" to the street, toward Gongora, but that once he stood up, he was moving "perpendicular" – as if to cross the street – until he fell. "It was after he was shot several *times that the knife kind of fell from his body. I don't know if it came from his hand or his pocket, but he was never like this to somebody," Smith said, miming holding a knife up as if to threaten someone.*

She added: "It's like they came out shooting. It's complete bullshit what's happening. There's no way that somebody deserved to lose their life."

Patrick's account of the shooting fills in key details that are missing from the surveillance video, which does not show the police officers while they were shooting or any view of Gongora."

(2) Anonymous witness quoted by The Guardian

Source: The Guardian – "[Patricks account…] also corresponds with the account of another neighbor who said that he saw the entire incident from his kitchen window, also across the street.

"I watched the whole thing. It was absolutely fucking terrible," said the neighbor, who asked to remain anonymous out of fear of police retaliation. "I was at the kitchen window and it all started. They shot him with the bean bag, and he turned to block the shots and gestured, like, 'What the fuck?' And that's when they shot him."

The neighbor added: "He was not really threatening. He wasn't running at them with a knife or anything like that. They just jumped right out and 20 seconds later he was dead.""

(3) John Visor and (4) Stephanie Grant

Source: KQED – "John Visor and Stephanie Grant, who live in a tent on Shotwell Street, said they saw the shooting, KQED's Alex Emslie reports. Visor identified the man as "Jose" and said he had known him for about a year.

> "He didn't charge at no officers," Visor said. "He was going in circles because he wasn't understanding what they were saying."
>
> Grant said the man was always friendly and she'd never seen him threaten anyone with a knife that he carried for protection while collecting bottles and cans.
>
> "He doesn't understand English," she said, adding the incident played out in less than a few minutes. "It shouldn't have happened that way at all."
>
> Visor said his friend's knife was stuck, blade down, in the man's belt.
>
> "The knife was up on his hip the whole time," Visor said. "When the last shot hit him, that's when he fell, and that's when the knife fell out and hit the ground.""
>
> A similar statement was given to Mission Local.

(5) Rosalyn Barnett

> Source: The Guardian "Barnett agreed that Gongora was sitting on the ground when police first approached, and said that the knife was sitting on the ground beside him.
>
> "He was already sitting on the ground. He wasn't touching the knife," she said. "They start launching the beanbags. He's sitting down the whole time. They didn't tell him to put his hands on his head, behind his back, none of that."
>
> Barnett said that after Gongora was hit with beanbags, he stood up and tried to run away.
>
> "He was running away. He wasn't running toward them," she said. "He wasn't that kind of person.""

(6) Christine Pepin

Source: The Guardian – *"He was sitting on the ground, his back against the wall," Pepin said about Gongora. "He seemed to be holding something in his left hand, but I didn't see a knife. He didn't seem aggressive. He seemed kind of lost and confused.*

"His head was against the building, sitting down, and his knees were bent, like in a relaxed manner," she added.

Pepin said that the officers were approximately seven to 10 meters from Gongora, and that no one else was close to him: "He was pretty much isolated. He was alone."

She said she then saw an officer aim a "big black and orange" gun at Gongora, and heard the officer tell Gongora to stay on the ground.

"I was shocked by this because it seemed to me that the person was harmless," Pepin said. "The officers started shooting, and I thought, 'This must not be real ammunition,' I thought, 'because why would they do that?'"

Pepin started to run away, and her view was blocked by a parked car, so she did not see what happened next.

Like S Smith Patrick, another witness who has challenged the police narrative of the shooting, Pepin said that she had assumed Gongora had threatened the police officers in a separate incident. After watching the surveillance video, however, she said she realized that she had witnessed the beginning of the encounter.

"It didn't seem that he was posing a threat to anyone. He looked lost. He didn't look aggressive," she said. "I don't see how a man, even with a knife in his hands – which I didn't see – how he could pose a threat to three officers with fully loaded weapons. That is really what shocked me."

(7) Carlos Guevara

> *Source: Mission Local – "A homeless man living in an encampment near where Luis Gongora was shot and killed by San Francisco police officers last week said Thursday that he witnessed the incident from a distance and said that he did not see Gongora lunge at the officers who shot him.*
>
> *He did say that that Gongora used his knife on a tree, possibly in anger at an impending sweep of the encampment before officers arrived. […]*
>
> *Carlos Guevara said he was "at least" twenty feet away from the scene of the shooting when he witnessed the fatal confrontation a week prior. Guevera lives in an encampment on 19th Street, around the corner from the Shotwell Street encampment where Gongora lived."*

(8) Ellen (Lastname unknown)

> *Source: Mission Local – "But the new witness, a local resident named Ellen, who did not want to give her last name and lives a block away from the Shotwell Street shooting site, offered a different version. She said she was walking home from Mission Cliffs gym when she saw a police car parked on the corner of 19th and Shotwell.*
>
> *Her statements follow those made by two friends of Gongora's, a neighbor who posted an account online, and an anonymous source who spoke with the Chronicle. All of them stated that Gongora did not lunge at the officers.*
>
> *Ellen said her view of the shooting was partially obstructed by the car, but that she "never saw the guy lunge at the cops." Nonetheless, she said, as she rounded the corner she heard officers say "Drop it" twice to a man slouched against a wall.*

> *"I saw the victim, who was sitting on the ground, back against the building, legs stretched out in front of him, hands up," she said. "He was holding something, it looked like garbage, possibly mylar. It just looked like trash."*
>
> *"If anything I saw him roll away from the pellet they were shooting at him," she said. "I never saw him get on his feet."*
>
> *Ellen said one officer with the bean-bag gun — which looked like a "toy rifle" with "neon detailing" — was in front of a line of other officers and that he was telling the man to "Drop it."*
>
> *After the officer fired "four to six" bean-bag rounds, the other officers took out their pistols and fired a similar number of bullets, she said. The video provided to the Chronicle indicates there were seven gunshots.*
>
> *Ellen said her mind went blank when she saw "the guy facedown on the sidewalk" and that she walked home immediately. She waited there before going back to the scene to give a statement to police."*

The Aftermath of the Shooting: Homeless witnesses harassed by police

Source: Mission Local – "Homeless residents of the block have been fearful of police retaliation. Department of Public Works trucks picked up trash from the block on Friday near midnight just after city staff had moved nine people from the encampment to the Navigation Center — a homeless shelter that can accommodate entire encampments at once.

But residents of the encampment were suspicious of the timing, saying the city was scattering witnesses to the shooting.

On Saturday, Grant and Visor said police threatened them with arrest after banging on their tent with batons, prompting them to move their tent a block down from their spot near where Gongora was killed.

"They told us that if we didn't move we were going to go to jail," Grant said.

Markael Raybond — another homeless resident of the encampment — said the police also told him to move from the area and threatened arrest if his tent was not gone from the block by daybreak.

Raybond also said the police kicked and shattered candles near his tent meant to memorialize Gongora, a good friend of Raybond.

"They kicked the tent and broke the candles, saying 'Get out, get out, SFPD. If you don't get out we'll take you to jail,'" he said.

Others had no warning. Adriana Camarena — a local activist who filmed the encounter — said some residents left the encampment when police arrived and that the police proceeded to dismantle the empty tents."

The article includes video of the raid that night.

[page under construction, come back real soon!]

For additional information on evidence and witness testimony, please see our wide selection of news stories that provides information about what police say and what witnesses say.

Para la información adicional de pruebas y testimonios de testigos oculares, por favor lea nuestra amplia selección de notas periodísticas acerca de lo que dice la polícia y dicen los testigos.

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Sixth witness disputes police account of homeless man's killing in San Francisco

Woman says Luis Gongora appeared 'relaxed' and was 'not posing a threat to anyone' before officers shot and killed him

Julia Carrie Wong in San Francisco

Tuesday 12 April 2016 09.00 EDT

A key witness to the police shooting of a homeless man in San Francisco on Thursday has come forward to say that the man was "relaxed", "isolated", and not "posing a threat to anyone" before two police officers opened fire.

Christine Pepin, a 45-year-old resident of Sunnyvale, is the latest witness to challenge the police narrative that Luis Gongora was armed and dangerous.

Pepin can be seen in a surveillance video that captures a partial view of the shooting. The footage, obtained by the San Francisco Chronicle, shows a woman walking on the sidewalk across the street from where two police officers approached and shot Gongora. As the gunfire erupted, the woman ducked and ran down the sidewalk, away from the shooting.

"He was sitting on the ground, his back against the wall," Pepin said about Gongora. "He seemed to be holding something in his left hand, but I didn't see a knife. He didn't seem aggressive. He seemed kind of lost and confused.

"His head was against the building, sitting down, and his knees were bent, like in a relaxed manner," she added.

Pepin said that the officers were approximately seven to 10 meters from Gongora, and that no one else was close to him: "He was pretty much isolated. He was alone."

She said she then saw an officer aim a "big black and orange" gun at Gongora, and heard the officer tell Gongora to stay on the ground.

"I was shocked by this because it seemed to me that the person was harmless," Pepin said. "The officers started shooting, and I thought, 'This must not be real ammunition,' I thought, 'because why would they do that?'"

Pepin started to run away, and her view was blocked by a parked car, so she did not see what happened next.

Like S Smith Patrick, another witness who has challenged the police narrative of the shooting, Pepin said that she had assumed Gongora had threatened the police officers in a separate incident. After watching the surveillance video, however, she said she realized that she had witnessed the beginning of the encounter.

"It didn't seem that he was posing a threat to anyone. He looked lost. He didn't look aggressive," she said. "I don't see how a man, even with a knife in his hands - which I didn't see - how he could pose a threat to three officers with fully loaded weapons. That is really what shocked me."

Pepin is the sixth witness to tell the Guardian that Gongora was not posing a threat.

The parade of eyewitness accounts - and the release of the surveillance video - appears to have prompted an unusually aggressive public relations effort by the embattled police department.

At a press conference on Friday, police commander Greg McEachern released information about four witness statements, all of which he said supported the idea that "as the officers contacted the individual, he moved forward to them with a knife in hand".

But McEachern acknowledged that he was releasing just a selection of more than 10 witness statements the department has gathered, and that the department had not completed its interviews with the officers involved.

According to the commander, one witness saw Gongora "lunge at the officers". A second said Gongora had been "flailing his hands with the knife as he ran toward the officers". A third said "the knife was raised up as he ran toward the officers".

The fourth witness McEachern cited was John Visor, a friend of Gongora's who lived in the same homeless encampment in the Mission District and was the first to challenge the police narrative.

The commander said Visor told police that he "saw the suspect's knife appear on the sidewalk". But McEachern noted that Visor did not give police the same details he later gave reporters.

On Thursday, Visor told reporters: "He didn't charge at the officers. He was going in circles because he didn't understand what they said. He had a knife on him but he didn't have it out. He had it on his hip, and when he hit the ground, that's when it fell out."

Stephanie Grant, another witness and Visor's partner, agreed with his account, adding: "They didn't wait for anything. It all happened so fast."

Rosalyn Barnett, another resident of the homeless encampment, told the Guardian that she had been standing with Visor and Grant when the shooting took place but that the police had not taken a statement from her.

Barnett agreed that Gongora was sitting on the ground when police first approached, and said that the knife was sitting on the ground beside him.

"He was already sitting on the ground. He wasn't touching the knife," she said. "They start launching the beanbags. He's sitting down the whole time. They didn't tell him to put his hands on his head, behind his back, none of that."

Barnett said that after Gongora was hit with beanbags, he stood up and tried to run away.

"He was running away. He wasn't running toward them," she said. "He wasn't that kind of person."

Two people who live in apartments across the street from the site of the shooting have also challenged the police account.

Patrick, who watched the entire incident from her apartment window, told the Guardian: "He didn't get up until they were shooting. I would by no stretch of the imagination say that he was charging them. His body was recoiling from bullets."

Another neighbor, who asked to remain anonymous, watched the incident from his kitchen window, and told the Guardian: "He was not really threatening. He wasn't running at them with a knife or anything like that. They just jumped right out and 20 seconds later he was dead."

If you have information about this shooting, please contact julia.wong@theguardian.com

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Video, More Witness Testimony Emerge Around SFPD Shooting of Homeless Man

By Joe Rivano Barros (http://missionlocal.org/author/joer/) and Laura Wenus (http://missionlocal.org/author/lauraw/) (http://twitter.com/jrivanob)
Posted April 8, 2016 3:24 pm

Tweet Share

Another witness told Mission Local today that the man police shot and killed Thursday morning at 19th and Shotwell streets never lunged at officers. That comes on the heel of video obtained by the Chronicle (http://www.sfgate.com/crime/article/Video-shows-San-Francisco-police-shooting-7237146.php) that shows the moments of the shooting — though the shooting itself is out of frame.

Her statements agreed with what three other witnesses have said (http://missionlocal.org/2016/04/sfpd-officers-shoot-man-armed-with-knife-in-sf-mission/) but are at odds with the version of events given by police, who said the victim — whom the Medical Examiner identified as Luis Gongora — lunged at them with a 13-inch-long non-serrated kitchen knife.

Commander Greg McEachern said police had interviewed 10 witnesses, and presented three who said that Gongora did threaten the officers, according to the San Francisco Examiner (http://www.sfexaminer.com/sfpd-witnesses-say-man-killed-thursday-coming-officers-knife/).

But the new witness, a local resident named Ellen, who did not want to give her last name and lives a block away from the Shotwell Street shooting site, offered a different version. She said she was walking home from Mission Cliffs gym when she saw a police car parked on the corner of 19th and Shotwell.

Her statements follow those made by two friends of Gongora's, a neighbor who posted an account online, and an anonymous source who spoke with the Chronicle (http://www.sfgate.com/crime/article/Video-shows-San-Francisco-police-shooting-7237146.php). All of them stated that Gongora did not lunge at the officers.

Ellen said her view of the shooting was partially obstructed by the car, but that she "never saw the guy lunge at the cops." Nonetheless, she said, as she rounded the corner she heard officers say "Drop it" twice to a man slouched against a wall.

"I saw the victim, who was sitting on the ground, back against the building, legs stretched out in front of him, hands up," she said. "He was holding something, it looked like garbage, possibly mylar. It just looked like trash."

"If anything I saw him roll away from the pellet they were shooting at him," she said. "I never saw him get on his feet."

Ellen said one officer with the bean-bag gun — which looked like a "toy rifle" with "neon detailing" — was in front of a line of other officers and that he was telling the man to "Drop it."

After the officer fired "four to six" bean-bag rounds, the other officers took out their pistols and fired a similar number of bullets, she said. The video provided to the Chronicle indicates there were seven gunshots.

Ellen said her mind went blank when she saw "the guy facedown on the sidewalk" and that she walked home immediately. She waited there before going back to the scene to give a statement to police.

Ellen's account matches that given by a homeless couple on Thursday. John Visor and Stephanie Grant said then (http://missionlocal.org/2016/04/sfpd-officers-shoot-man-armed-with-knife-in-sf-mission/)that Gongora was sitting against a wall after playing with his soccer ball and that he did not understand the officers' commands as they approached him.

The press conference held Friday morning came on the heels of security camera video from across the street provided to the Chronicle (http://www.sfgate.com/crime/article/Video-shows-San-Francisco-police-shooting-7237146.php) that shows the incident unfolded in just 30 seconds, though Gongora and shooting itself are not visible in the video.

The video shows three patrol cars drive up Shotwell Street toward 19th Street and park in the middle of the block near a homeless encampment. Three officers exit the vehicles, and the driver of the car in front emerges with an orange bean-bag shotgun.

In the video, the officer raises the shotgun within 10 seconds of exiting his car and aims it out of frame toward where Gongora was reportedly situated. Walking on the sidewalk toward Gongora, the officer yells "Get on the ground," and then "Stay on the ground," while advancing. A second officer, who exited the car behind him, joins him at his side.

The two officers shout "Get on the ground" and "Put that down" as they move toward the man and out of frame. The first bean-bag shot happens out of frame and is followed quickly by three more, before seven handgun shots are heard.

Almost all officers are out of the frame except during the final shots, when the first two officers come back into frame. The officer with the bean-bag gun can be seen firing two shots from his pistol.

A third officer is well behind the first two throughout the incident and does not appear to draw his weapon, but is out of frame for a portion of the shooting.

The Coalition on Homelessness issued a statement with concerns about the shooting on Friday, among them the fact that all commands were issued in English. Gongora was reported to be a monolingual Spanish speaker, and another witness said Gongora did not understand the officers' commands.

In the statement, the Coalition called for changes to police use-of-force policies, including language requiring "minimal" instead of "reasonable" force.

"We should not settle for the lowest possible bar: While valuing officer safety, we must also embrace sanctity of civilian life," the Coalition's statement read.

The statement also called for mandatory de-escalation in encounters with civilians, implementation of a crisis intervention team, no implementation of Tasers, and the collection of data on use of force.

Mayor Ed Lee has called for an Office of Citizen Complaints investigation into the incident.

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Eighth Witness Says Homeless Man Did Not Lunge at Officers in Police Shooting

By Laura Waxmann (http://missionlocal.org/author/laurawaxmann/)
Posted 3 hours ago

Tweet Share

A homeless man living in an encampment near where Luis Gongora was shot and killed (http://missionlocal.org/2016/04/sfpd-officers-shoot-man-armed-with-knife-in-sf-mission/) by San Francisco police officers last week said Thursday that he witnessed the incident from a distance and said that he did not see Gongora lunge at the officers who shot him.

He did say that that Gongora used his knife on a tree, possibly in anger at an impending sweep of the encampment before officers arrived. Police were called to the scene after Gongora was seen "swinging a knife around in a chopping motion," according to Police Chief Greg Suhr.

Carlos Guevara said he was "at least" twenty feet away from the scene of the shooting when he witnessed the fatal confrontation a week prior. Guevera lives in an encampment on 19th Street, around the corner from the Shotwell Street encampment where Gongora lived.

"I saw everything, and I know the city worker who called the police," said Guevara. The man said that on the morning Gongora was killed, members of the Department of Public Health's Homeless Outreach Team were warning residents of the Shotwell encampment of a sweep.

Police have said that the outreach workers responded to a disturbance in the encampment that Thursday, April 7, and called 911 (http://missionlocal.org/2016/04/chief-fields-angry-question-on-police-shooting-of-homeless-man/) after seeing Gongora swinging his knife.

Guevara said Gongora was not swinging it but was stabbing a nearby tree with it. Other residents had received warnings of a sweep of the encampment, Guevara said, and Gongora may have been upset that he was being forced to leave.

Guevara is the eighth witness to challenge the police department's narrative that Gongora had threatened officers before being shot at seven times. He is also the only witness quoted in the press to mention Gongora using the knife before the shooting.

The morning of Gongora's death, residents of the encampment had just received word they would have to move, Guevara said.

"They were going from tent to tent starting from 18th Street up to 19th Street," said Guevara, referring to members of the outreach team. "Luis's tent was the fourth or fifth, he didn't receive a warning yet but he knew that he would get one too."

Guevara said that he saw Gongora exit his tent and stab a nearby tree with his knife "a bunch of times."

"[They were] giving warnings to the first two or three houses. He was the fourth or fifth house," said Guevara. "He felt he would get a warning and probably took his frustration out on the tree."

All trees in the area have significant scratches, old and new.

Guevara said that he saw Gongora with the knife but didn't approach him. "I didn't ask what was going on. Even if that's your brother you don't ask."

"I knew Luis as a neighbor. We knew each other but we don't know each other [well]," continued Guevara, adding that in the two months that he lived on the block of 19th and Shotwell streets he never perceived Gongora as a threat. Guevara said that he saw Gongora "playing soccer" shortly before he was killed.

"The only bad thing he did that day was grab the knife when he left his tent," said Guevara, who said he witnessed Gongora "walk out onto the sidewalk" and sit "by the garage" of a PG&E building on Shotwell Street.

Gongora was confronted on that spot by police officers, according to other witnesses, who said Gongora would frequently rest there after playing soccer on the block.

"He sat down. The knife was on the ground when the police came," said Guevara. Guevera saw the officers shoot Gongora "with rubber bullets" — possibly a reference to the bean bag rounds an officer used before the second officer fired his handgun. Guevara said that he did not see Gongora lunge at officers.

Guevara, a former carpenter, said he became homeless around Thanksgiving. After losing his job, Guevara said he "started to do drugs." He was asked to testify by a lawyer who had come to the encampment after the shooting, but feared retaliation by the police, though he did talk to a reporter.

"If I do say something and it's the truth something is gonna happen to me," said Guevara.

Last Tents Disappear from Shotwell

Two witnesses to the shooting at the Shotwell encampment (http://missionlocal.org/2016/04/harassment-and-backdoor-maneuvers-alleged-in-aftermath-of-police-shooting/) said they were told by police officers to move their tents or face arrest on Saturday night, and other homeless campers told the San Francisco Chronicle that they were "shoved out" of the encampment, but later returned. (http://www.sfgate.com/crime/article/Police-sweep-homeless-camp-where-resident-was-shot-7242272.php)

The day after Gongora's shooting, Mayor Ed Lee told the Chronicle (http://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/matier-ross/article/SF-mayor-plans-crackdown-on-homeless-camps-7238291.php) he would begin a crackdown on the city's homeless encampments and said he would "be ordering the Shotwell camp to be taken down and for it not to come back."

After an almost week-long process of dismantling the camp, some 10 residents near the corner of 19th and Shotwell streets had been entirely cleared out by the end of Thursday, April 14. Some had been relocated to the Navigation Center days earlier, but the last tents around the corner from the shooting site were ordered dismantled on Thursday.

"They want us out of here by today. They came and told me that around 7 a.m. this morning," said 21-year-old Daniel Perez while folding a blanket and sorting his belongings into bags near 10 a.m.

Jose, a resident of a homeless encampment on 19th Street between Shotwell and Folsom streets, said police told him he must v
the camp on April 14. Photo by Laura Waxmann

Another resident of the encampment who gave his name as "Jose" was also busy consolidating his belongings and echoed Perez' account.

"I went to a bakery on 24th Street around 5:30 a.m. to get my *pan* and *cafe*," said Jose, adding that when he returned to his tent around 7 a.m., he found a police officer "looking at it" who told Jose that it was "time to leave."

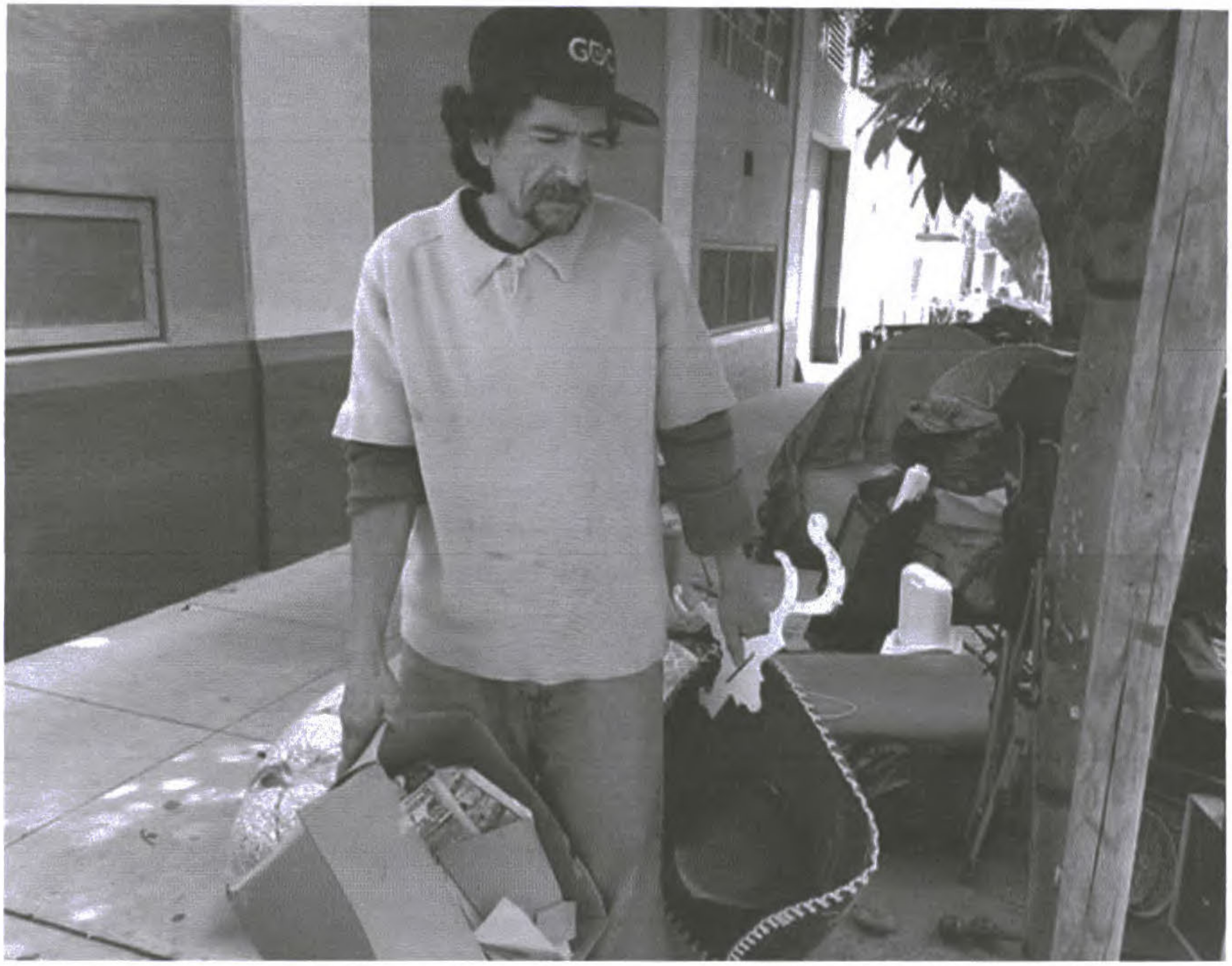
Jose said the officer warned him of a Public Works sweep later in the day and told him that camping on the sidewalk is illegal. "Where am I gonna go? It's illegal everywhere," said Jose.

When asked if a sweep of the area had been planned that day, Public Works spokesperson Mindy Linetzky said that she was unaware of "any special clean-ups planned for that area. Our folks clean up daily around the city as needed."

Others at the camp were also unsure of why they were suddenly told to move.

Guevara speculated that it had to do with the recent shooting of his neighbor.

"I pick up and leave when I start feeling the heat," said Guevara. "I started to feel the heat the morning that Luis was killed."



Perez, who had been camping at the site for some two months, said that an officer told him that morning that complaints had come in from the fire station across the street.

"[The officer] said that someone broke into the fire station's storage unit and building overnight and stole some things, and I guess they are assuming it was us," said Perez.

But Jonathan Baxter, a spokesperson for the San Francisco Fire Department, said that no such complaints were made and that no break-ins had been reported at the station.

"The fire department has not requested for the tents to be moved," said Baxter.

The police department did not immediately return a request for comment.

By 5 p.m., Jose was sitting on a white bucket next to his belongings where his tent had stood that morning. "They haven't been by," he said with a shrug, referring to Public Works crews.

Perez and Guevara were gone, but their belongings were packed up and could still be seen stacked along the sidewalk at the campsite.

JUSTICE 4 Luis Demetrio Gongora Pat, killed by SFPD 4-7-16

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response from faith leader Richard Leslie Smith : https://www.facebook.com/groups/230409604013458/

6:46am
Hi, Mesha. Would be happy to do whatever seems right. This is so sad. I just posted to the Facebook page. Is there a main contact person? Any family here?

JUSTICE 4 Luis Demetrio Gongora Pat, killed by SFPD 4-7-16

[redacted]

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RECENT ACTIVITY

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Yesterday at 10:02am

I painted this for our fallen brother on Friday afternoon. While I was there, a brown man who had been up for 4 days high on crystal meth, was drunk and starting fights with his friends, eventually taking out a knife. A group of at least 8 officers had already responded to calls about the fighting, and when I saw the knife later I feared most for his own safety. If the cops returned, I knew he would be killed by them without hesitation. F**k SFPD and Ed Lee. Homeless lives matter. I will be updating it this week with his full name now that it has been confirmed. Grateful for people like everyone in this group who recognize the police for what they really are and fight for the memory of those who have been stolen and the lives that will be saved when we are free.

[redacted]

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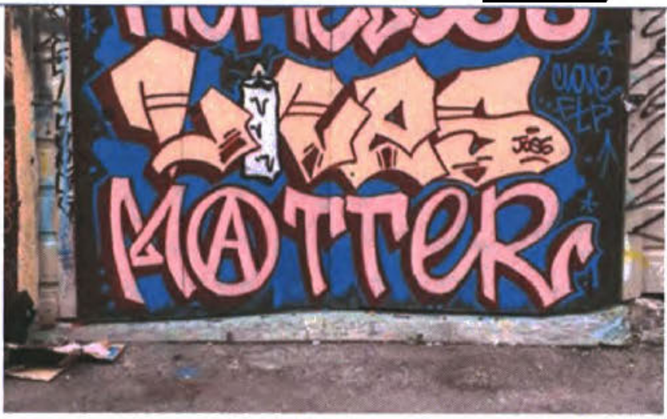
- Jean Moshofsky Butler
- Janis Mara
- Nancy Beam 17m

JUSTICE 4 Luis Demetrio Gongora Pat, killed by SFPD 4-7-16

[redacted] **Home** 2 **Find Friends** 1 80



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[redacted] [redacted] I just want to clarify something... In your above post, you're NOT talking about Jose Luis Gongora, right? You're talking about another man you saw while you were painting this mural? Some folks have gotten confused, and I just want to make sure we're all understanding you correctly. Thank you for your lovely work.

Like · 2 · Yesterday at 8:15pm

[redacted] 6 Replies · 1 hr

[redacted] [redacted] Thank you [redacted] this is beautiful. And I'm so grateful that you didn't witness another police murder.

Like · 1 · Yesterday at 8:19pm

[redacted] [redacted] "Homeless Outreach Team": sound corporate enough for you? Turns out hiring Union social workers and experienced people to help homeless people is too "expensive" for the City, and they'd rather hire a PRIVATE company to do this work. That Private Compa... See More

Like · 2 · 22 hrs

[redacted] [redacted] hrs

Yo! I was able to discuss Luis Gongora's case and police harassment of encampment on Democracy Now today!

Death by Gentrification in SF Part 2 with Rebecca Solnit & Adriana Camarena

Part 2 of our discussion about the link between police killings and gentrification in San Francisco, with author Rebecca Solnit and community organizer Adriana Camarena.

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Bay Area for Bernie

Bay Area for Bernie
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Chat

[redacted]

17m

JUSTICE 4 Luis Demetrio Gongora Pat, killed by SFPD 4-7-16

[redacted] **Home** 2 **Find Friends** 1 80

[redacted]
Yesterday at 6:53pm

On behalf of the family of Luis Demetrio Gongora Pat, I am sharing the only picture his San Francisco family has in possession Luis was born in Teabo, Yucatan on 4/25/1970 - he would have turned 46 in a couple of weeks A Yucatec Mayan, he is survived by his brothers [redacted] [redacted] and his cousin [redacted] his only family members in the United States, and his spouse, three grown children and his elderly parents, all in Yucatan, Me... See More

See Translation

Like **Share**

[redacted]

47 shares

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[redacted] TOWN HALL MEETING JUST ANNONCED WEDNESDAY APRIL 13TH AT NOON UNION LOCAL HALL 3271 18TH STREET
Like · 1 · 8 hrs

[redacted] gracias hermana. compartido
See Translation
Like · 1 · 6 hrs

[redacted] Thanks
Like · 1 · 2 hrs

[redacted] shared [redacted] s post.
22 hrs

POLICE ARE OUT HARRASSING SHOTWELL COMMUNITY NOW! 4/11/16

[redacted]
23 hrs

I'm back on Shotwell between 18th & 19th & The cops are telling them to take the tents down.. Cops will be back in 10 minutes to see if they're gone.. Who knows...

See More

Like **Share**

17

[redacted]

17m

JUSTICE 4 Luis Demetrio Gongora Pat, killed by SFPD 4-7-16

[redacted] **Home** 2 **Find Friends** 1 80

[redacted] committed a crime against....two separate issues...

Like · 2 · 9 hrs

[redacted] All that matters is whether killing the person in that moment, based on what was going on at that moment, was justified. The answer always seems to be NO. They seem to make no attempt to do anything once they arrive on scene but shoot to kill.

Like · 1 · 9 hrs · Edited

[redacted] So whut wuz tha outcome last night.?

Like · 1 · 3 hrs

[redacted]

hrs

Chief Suhr's Townhall: Wednesday, April 13th @ NOON

'Town Hall' On Controversial Shooting Of Homeless Man To Be Held Wednesday At Noon

BY EVE BATEY IN NEWS ON APR 12, 2016 1:55 PM... See More

'Town Hall' On Controversial Shooting Of Homeless Man To Be Held Wednesday At Noon

The meeting will be held at Union Local Hall (3271 18th Street).

SFIST.COM

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35 shares

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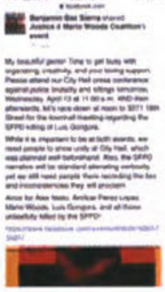
[redacted] I just read what our coach [redacted] said regarding this situation. [redacted] makes some good sense. Myself, not knowing what the agenda was going to be_ our Public Defender approaching Kamala Harris for an independent investigation from the State of Califo... See More

Like · 1 · 3 hrs

Jee Bee replied · 1 Reply

[redacted]



Like · 1 · 3 hrs

[redacted]

Chat

[redacted]

17m

JUSTICE 4 Luis Demetrio Gongora Pat, killed by SFPD 4-7-16 [redacted] **Home** 2 **Find Friends** 1 80

Like · 1 · 3 hrs

[redacted] [redacted] shared Justice 4 Mario Woods Coalition's event.
3 hrs

My beautiful gente! Time to get busy with organizing, creativity, and your loving support. Please attend our City Hall press conference against police brutality and killings tomorrow, Wednesday, April 13 at 11:00 a.m. AND then afterwards, let's race down at noon to 3271 18th Street for the townhall meeting regarding the SFPD killing of Luis Gongora.

While it is important to be at both events, we need people to show unity at City Hall, which was planned well beforehand. Also,... See More

APR
13

Battle Cry Of The People Enough is E...
Tomorrow 11 AM · San Francisco City Hall · San...
234 people interested · 75 people going

Interested

Like **Share**

19

[redacted]
3 hrs · Oakland, CA, United States

This is just a thought and hopefully, it will gain some traction, so please give it serious consideration.
The so-called SFPD Town Halls serve to legitimize police murder and brutality by giving the cops the excuse that they met with the community as they further their false narrative(s). These meetings also act as a lightning rod for public grief and anger that is carefully moderated to make the cops appear reasonable as they are shouted down by people outraged at their con... See More

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15

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[redacted] [redacted] In the meantime, tomorrow morning through afternoon please call 415 241-7741 office of citizen complaints inspector Dolece. [redacted]
Filed complaint against SFPD for murdering in cold blood Luis Gongora on Shotwell Street between 18th and 19th street The momin... See More

Chat

[redacted]

17m

JUSTICE 4 Luis Demetrio Gongora Pat, killed by SFPD 4-7-16 [redacted] **Home** 2 **Find Friends** 1 80

[redacted] also in this thread
Like · 3 hrs

[redacted] [redacted] It's better to keep it simple. It's easier to dissuade people from going in than it will be to get them smoothly out. And I think that the police should be iced out of the process entirely. I would not want a repeat where the cops showed up at a Town Hall macho-like.
Like · 3 hrs

[redacted] [redacted]
April 10 at 11:31pm · San Francisco, CA, United States

[redacted] has a facebook page, so do [redacted] [redacted] all mentioned in the article above

Like Share

8

View 5 more comments

[redacted] [redacted] Sometimes being transparent and public and connected is good. [redacted] hese cops can't "disappear" these folks if y'all are protecting them.
Like · 8 hrs

[redacted] [redacted] You're right there
Like · 8 hrs

[redacted] [redacted] Tomorrow morning through afternoon please call 415 241-7741 office of citizen complaints inspector Dolece.
Filed complaint against SFPD for murdering in cold blood Luis Gongora on Shotwell Street between 18th and 19th street The morning of April 7th 20... See More
Like · 3 hrs

[redacted] [redacted]
6 hrs · San Francisco, CA, United States

I just received an email from Chief Suhr's office, the SFPD announces Townhall Meeting at noon tomorrow at Local 261 Union Hall........
"A town hall meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 13, 2016 at 12 Noon to provide the Mission community with an update on the investigation of the officer involved shooting that occurred on Shotwell Street near 18th Street on Thursday, April 7th. This town hall meeting will be held at the Union Local Hall located at 3271 18th Street."

Like Share

7

[redacted] [redacted] n the meantime, Tomorrow morning through afternoon please call 415 241-7741 office of citizen complaints inspector Dolece.
Filed complaint against SFPD for murdering in cold blood Luis Gongora on Shotwell Street between 18th and 19th street The momin... See More
Like · 3 hrs

[redacted] [redacted]
3 hrs

I think media folks should take note - consider stories -- The SFPD has been struggling to figure out how to handle the PR around the inexplicable murder of Luis Gongora Apr 7, which took place the morning after the police commission meeting on police brutality. Saturday Apr 9 cops ransacked the encampment where the murder took place, antagonizing witnesses.
At least 6 witnesses have already come forward saying Luis presented no threat when shot, contradicting the police acco... See More

Like Share

Chat
[redacted]
17m

JUSTICE 4 Luis Demetrio Gongora Pat, killed by SFPD 4-7-16 [redacted] **Home** 2 **Find Friends** 1 80

When and where is Town Hall meeting for Willy Gongora case?

Like **Share**

17

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[redacted]n re t[redacted]'s statment. I think a lot of good came out of the SFPD Mario woods town hall. The community came together there and there is no justice in this system yet that townhall was the closest thing to a truth commission where the state and the... See More

Like · 3 · 10 hrs

[redacted]https://www.facebook.com/sosanista/videos/10200944528731232/?l=3454853872051012732

Christopher Muhammad delivers biz to SFPD Chief Suhr

04:39

75,397 Views

[redacted] posted a video from December 2015 to his timeline.
December 2015 · San Francisco, CA, United States ·

Minister Christopher Muhammad discusses the murder of #MarioWoods by SFPD and delivers the biz to SFPD Chief Suhr telling him that he should resign. This is ...

See More

Like · 2 · 10 hrs

[redacted]SFPD announces Townhall Meeting at noon tomorrow........
[redacted] will be held on Wednesday, April 13, 2016 at 12 Noon to provide
the Mission community with an update on the investigation of the officer involved... See More

Like · 3 · 6 hrs

[redacted]
8 hrs

San Francisco Police Commission Meeting

Wednesday, April 13, 2016
5:30pm
San Francisco City Hall, Room 400... See More

Chat

[redacted]

17m

JUSTICE 4 Luis Demetrio Go..gora Pat, killed by SFPD 4-7-16 Like [redacted] **Home** 2 **Find Friends** 1 80

7

[redacted] [redacted]
22 hrs · San Francisco, CA, United States

I just left the following message in [redacted] in-box :

Hi [redacted]
Are you open to do a memorial service, (with an added mayan ritual), for the homegoing of Luis Gongora, at your church ? Please respond if you like the idea on "Justice 4 Luis Demetrio Gongora Pat, killed by SFPD" facebook group that is moderated by [redacted], thanks !
He is the 12th stolen life by SFPD since the execution of Alex Nieto

Like **Share**

25

[redacted] [redacted] I'm planning on going down to Shotwell shortly to see exactly what the situation is. I would be willing to do a late night neighborhood watch with others to protect those that are living there as best as is possible with only a cell phone. Adrienne is ... See More
Like · 2 · 9 hrs

Older Posts

Chat
[redacted]
17m